THE COINS OF TAMILNADU

K. GANESH

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CONTENTS

PREFACE	
COINS OF THE CHOLAS	1
COINS OF THE PANDYAS	25
COINS OF KONGU CHERAS	40
COINS OF MADURAI SULTANS	49
COINS OF MADURAI NAYAKS	56
COINS OF THANJAVUR NAYAKS	97
COINS OF GINGEE NAYAKS	122
COINS OF THE BANAS	130
COINS OF SETHUPATIS	136
COINS OF THANJAVUR MARATHAS	143
COINS OF GINGEE MARATHAS	153
COINS OF SIVAGANGA RAJAS	166
MISCELLANEOUS COINS	172
COINS OF THE NAWABS OF ARCOT	190

PREFACE

This work is an attempt to record the Tamilnadu coins prevalent during the ninth to eighteenth centuries AD. The period chosen is from the rise of the imperial Cholas to the establishment of the British Empire. The coins of the Vijayanagar Empire, which formed bulk of the coinage during the fourteenth through seventeenth centuries, are not covered. These are exhaustively dealt in the book *The Coins of the Vijayanagar Empire* authored by K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

In this book, the coins of Cholas, Pandyas, Kongu Cheras, the Nayaks of Madurai, Thanjavur and Gingee, Thanjavur and Gingee Marathas, Banas, Sethupatis, Sivaganga Rajas, Madurai Sultans, Nawabs of Arcot and coins of minor chieftains are covered. In all, about 700 coin types are recorded.

I sincerely thank the American Numismatic Society for allowing me to publish some of the coins from their collection. Barbara Mears provided the photographs of these coins. Gopi and Gautam Chand permitted me to photograph and report some of the Chola coins from their collection. Madhu of Unity Process took personal interest during the scanning of the photographs. Girijapathy provided useful information. I thank all of them.

I have no doubt that this book will be a valuable addition to the existing works on Tamilnadu coinage.

K. Ganesh

1

COINS OF THE CHOLAS

The Cholas trace their origin to Mahabharata. The Ceylonese chronicle, Mahavamsa, states that the Chola king Elara conquered Ceylon in second century BC. Karikala Chola is the earliest known great king. He is said to have invaded Ceylon and shifted the capital from Uraiyur in Trichy to Kaveripattinam. Nedumudikilli succeeded him, but the Chola power seems to have suffered misfortune at the hands of Cheras and later on, the Pallavas. They remained in obscurity till about ninth century. However with the decline of the Pallavas, the Cholas regained their power in the middle of ninth century. Vijayalaya (850-871) and Aditya I (871-907) were the first two kings in the imperial Chola line. Parantaka (907-955), son of Aditya I, defeated the Pandyan king, Rajasimha and also subjugated the Banas and the Gangas. However after his defeat at the hands of the Rashtrakutas, the Chola power was weakened. Uttama Chola (973-985) consolidated his control over a small kingdom, but Rajaraja I (985-1014) reestablished the glory of the Cholas. After conquering the Pandyas and the Cheras, he subdued the Eastern Chalukyas. He then invaded the Karnataka; Gangavadi and Nolambavadi were included in his dominions. His naval expedition against Ceylon was carried out during 1001 to 1004. Rajendra I (1012-1044), son of Rajaraja ruled with his father during the last three years of his father's lifetime. He maintained and improved the extensive kingdom inherited by him. He had successes over the Western Chalukyas. Rajadhiraja I (1018-1054) ruled along with his father Rajendra I. His inscriptions reveal that he defeated the Pandyas, Cheras and curtailed the power of the Chalukyas. However, he was killed in a battle against Western Chalukyas at Koppam on the banks of river Tungabhadra. His brothers Rajendra II (1052-1064) and later Virarajendra (1063-1069) ruled after him. The Chola throne later passed on to the Eastern Chalukyan prince Kulottunga Chola (1070-1120) whose mother Ammangadevi was the daughter of Rajendra Chola I. His father was the Eastern Chalukyan king

Rajaraja. Kulottunga ruled over a largest kingdom extending from Kanyakumari to Vengi. However towards the end of his reign he lost the Chera dominions to the Venad rulers and the Hoysalas captured Gangavadi and Nolambavadi. In the north, the Western Chalukyan king, Vikramaditya VI conquered Vengi. Kulottunga was succeeded by his son Vikrama Chola (1118-1135), who ruled with his father during the last two years of his reign. Kulottunga Chola II (1133-1150), Rajaraja II (1146-1173), Rajadhiraja II (1163-1179) and Kulottunga Chola III (1178-1216) ruled after Vikrama Chola. The Pandyas, who were the feudatories of Cholas, started becoming powerful and Jatavarman Kulasekhara declared independence in 1210. Maravarman Sundara Pandya had major victory over Kulottunga Chola III. Rajaraja III (1216-1246) and Rajendra III (1246-1267) were reduced to a level of petty vessels. The Chola kingdom was completely wiped out during 1267.

Coinage

The Cholas issued coins in gold, silver and copper. The gold coins were known as *Madais* or *Kalanju* (probably bullion), while the silver *Kasus* varied from pure silver to debase. The copper *Kasus*, and their smaller divisions were of copper or bronze.

The initial gold coin of Uttama Chola weighs 3.8 gm (60 grains) which corresponds to the standard *Gadyana* standard. However the gold coins of later rulers weigh 4.1 gm (72 grains). The *fanams* with weights 0.5 gm, 0.25 gm and 0.05 gm have been observed. These represent a weight of $1/8^{th}$, $1/16^{th}$ and $1/80^{th}$ of *Kalanju*.

The coin with Tamil Grantha legend *Uttama Solan* is the earliest issue of the imperial Chola line. This and the coin with legend *Matirantakan* are assigned to Uttama Chola. A silver coin with Nagari legend *Uttama Chola* is also assigned to him although K. A. Nilakanta Sastri and Biddulph seem to suggest this to be an issue of Rajendra Chola I. According to them, the Nagari legend was introduced by Rajaraja I. Also it is not known whether Uttama Chola had conquered Cheras; the presence of bow on this type as different from the gold coins.

Rajaraja I issued coins in gold, silver and copper. The gold

and silver coins are scarce. The common prototype shows on the obverse, a standing figure holding a flower on left hand with right hand raised, while the reverse has the seated figure with Nagari legend *Rajaraja*. These types are commonly known as Ceylon-man type as these prototypes were also in vogue amongst the Ceylon kings especially from the period of Parakramabahu who ruled during the twelfth century AD. There has been varied opinion among the scholars on the originator of the *Ceylon-man* type coins. Biddulph suggests that the Pandyas first coined the Ceylon-man coins in the Korkey area of the Tinnevelly district, which was later adopted by the Cholas, and at a much later date by the kings of Ceylon. Nilakanta Sastri suggests that the use of Nagari script on these coins must have first been employed in the Chola country and thence spread to Ceylon.

To Rajaraja I is also assigned two gold fanams bearing the legend *Yuddha malla* and *Jaya Chola*. It is not clear whether Rajaraja had the title *Yuddha malla*. The title *Jaya chola* was also borne by Rajadhiraja I and Kulottunga.

The copper coins of Ceylon-man type vary considerably in fabric and weight. The designs appear to deteriorate suggesting that these coins were issued over a long period of time probably by Rajaraja I and all his successors. These coins are found in very large numbers across all the regions. The absence of copper coins bearing the name of the later rulers also confirms this hypothesis.

There are other types in copper assigned to Rajaraja. Coins with four-petalled flower, coin with legend *Rajakesari (?)*, coin with legend *Parakesari (?)* appear to be special issues as they are scarce. Coins with boar device, may have been issued by Rajaraja I after his Eastern Chalukyan alliance.

Rajendra Chola I issued coins in gold and silver. One of the type in gold and silver bears Nagari legend *Gangaikonda Chola,* a title extremely common in his epigraphs. The other type bears his name *Sri Rajendra*. Coins with legend *Mudikonda Cholan* are also assigned to him as this was the title borne by him.

A sole gold coin with legend *Sri Rajadhiraja* is assigned to Rajadhiraja I. Silver coins earlier attributed to him bear a lion on the obverse and the Nagari legend *Rajadhiraja* on the reverse. These have not been included here as they are the issues of

chiefs of Nagire who ruled over parts of north Kanara districts.

Gold coins of Kulottunga I have been brought to light through several hoards. The notable amongst them is the Dowlaishwaram in the east Godavari district. Coins with legends *Chalukyarayana* (for Chalukyanarayana), *Kataikondacholan*, *Malainadukondacholan* were observed in this hoard which are assigned to him. Coin hoard from Kavilayadavalli in Atmakur taluk in Nellore had on the obverse tiger, bow and indistinct symbols while the reverse had the Tamil legend *Sung*. The *Sung* probably stood for *Sungantavirttuarulina* (abolisher of tolls), a title by which Kulottunga was known. The coins observed in Vayalpad in Andhra Pradesh had on the obverse, devices such as tiger, bow, fish and lamp while the reverse had the Tamil legend *Avani* or *Avanimuludu*. The inscriptions of Kulottunga I refer to the titles *Puvanamulududaiyal* and *Avanimulududaiyal*. Commenting on this, K. A. Nilakanta Sastri observes that these titles meaning "mistress of the whole world" referred to the chief queen of Kulottunga I, Tyagavalli. To the same king is assigned a gold coin bearing legend *Tyagabarana*. Although epigraphical evidence for this title is not available, the attribution is mainly based on the regnal year seen on the coin.The word *Tyaga* appears in the titles and names of many Chola kings and queens. Vikrama Chola was known by the titles *Tyagasamudra* and *Tygavarakara*. *Tyagavinodan* is the title borne by Kulottunga III. *Tyagavalli* was the queen of Kulottunga I. *Tyagapataka* was Vikrama Chola's queen.

Coins of later rulers are not known. After the rule of Kulottunga I, the Chola power weakened. It is also possible that the coins of earlier rulers were in circulation more so the *Rajaraja kasu*. The standing king / bull type series of coins which have earlier been attributed to the later Cholas are not listed here. The fact that these series do not belong to the Cholas is largely accepted now. These series are dealt later.

Description of Coins

Uttama Chola (973-985)

1.1 Gold, 3.8 gm, 16 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Within border of dots, fish on left and seated tiger on right, facing left; legend around in Grantha characters
U tta ma So la n.
Rev. Same as obverse.
1.2 Gold, 3.8 gm, 16 mm, R. Nagaswamy, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Fish on left and seated tiger on right, facing left; legend around in Grantha characters *Matirantakan.*
Rev. Same as obverse.
1.3 Silver, 4.3 gm, 20 mm, Elliot, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Within border of dots, under a parasol flanked by two fly whisks, the following figures from left to right – a lampstand, a strung bow, a tiger, two fishes, another lampstand.
Rev. Within border of dots, two-line Nagari legend
U tta ma / Cho lah.

Several die variations exist; the coins are also in base silver.

1.4 Copper, 4.3 gm, 20 mm, Chattopadhyaya.
Obv. Same as previous coin.

Rev. Same as previous coin.

Rajaraja I (985-1014)

1.5 Gold, 4.3 gm, 20 mm, Elliot, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure of king with head to right, with flower on left hand. The right arm is extended outwards and downwards; lamp on left and pellets on right field.
Rev. Seated figure of king with left arm raised and right arm resting on the right knee; in the right field Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Ra ja.*

The coin is also found in base gold.

1.6 Gold, 7.0 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Similar to the previous coin.
Rev. Similar to the previous coin.
The coin is crudely executed but weighs 7.0 gm. This is the first time, a coin of this weight is reported.

1.7 Gold, 0.5 gm, 10 mm, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. From left to right – a strung bow, a tiger, two fishes; a parasol above.
Rev. Two-line Nagari legend *Yu ddha / ma lla.*
1.8 Gold, 0.25 gm, 7 mm, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Two-line Nagari legend *Ja ya / Cho la.*
1.9 Silver, 3.6 gm, 20 mm, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure of king with head to right, with flower on left hand. The right arm is extended outwards and downwards; lamp on left and pellets on right field.
Rev. Seated figure of king with left arm raised and right arm resting on the right knee; in the right field Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Ra ja.*
1.10 Silver, 1.0 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Similar to 1.9.
Rev. Similar to 1.9.
1.11 Silver, 0.5 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Similar to 1.9.
Rev. Similar to 1.9
1.12 Silver, 0.3 gm, 8 mm, A. Seetharaman.

Obv. From left to right – a strung bow, a tiger, two fishes; a parasol above.
Rev. Tamil legend (*Ravi*)*kula manikkam.*
1.13 Copper, 4.2 gm, 20 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure of king with head to right, with flower on left hand. The right arm is extended outwards and downwards; lamp on left and pellets on right field.
Rev. Seated figure of king with left arm raised and right arm resting on the right knee; in the right field Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Ra ja.*
1.14 Copper, 2.4 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king as in 1.13.
Rev. Similar to 1.13.
1.15 Copper, 1.5 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king as in 1.13.
Rev. Similar to 1.13.
1.16 Copper, 0.6 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king as in 1.13.
Rev. Similar to 1.13.
1.17 Brass, 3.8 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king as in 1.13.

Rev. Similar to 1.13.

1.18 Copper, 2.4 gm, 18 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure of king with head to right, with flower on left hand. The right arm is extended outwards and downwards; lamp on left and *Vishnupadam* on the right field.
Rev. Seated figure of king with left arm raised and right arm resting on the right knee; in the right field Nagari legend *Ra ja / Ra ja.*

1.19 Copper, 3.0 gm, 18 mm, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Seated figure of king; in the right field a four-petalled flower.

1.20 Copper, 2.9 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king, face turned towards left.
Rev. Usual seated figure; in the right field a four-petalled flower.

1.21 Copper, 4.1 gm, 20 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king with head to right, with flower on left hand. The right arm is extended outwards and downwards; a stylised figure with untied loose hair (*Pisiranthaiar* ?) in the left field.
Rev. Seated figure of king with left arm raised and right arm resting on the right knee; in the right field Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Ra ja.*

1.22 Copper, 3.6 gm, 20 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king with head to right, with flower on left hand. The right arm is extended outwards and downwards.
Rev. Seated figure of king; in the right field a stylised figure.

1.23 Copper, 3.1 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king with head to right, with flower on left hand. The right arm is extended outwards and downwards; in the

right is a conch and in the left field is a boar with canopy above.
Rev. Seated figure of king with left arm raised and right arm resting on the right knee; in the right field Nagari legend *Ra ja / Ra ja.*

1.24 Copper, 1.9 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Elephant to right.
Rev. Seated figure of king; in the right field a boar.

1.25 Copper, 3.2 gm, 19 mm, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure of king as usual.
Rev. Usual seated figure; in the right field two-line Nagari legend *Ra ja / Kes* (probably intended to read *Raja Kesari*). Desikachari reads the legend as *nda* probably standing for Sunda(ra). Mitchiner reads the legend as *Ku* (standing for Kulottunga).

1.26 Copper, 3.0 gm, 19 mm.

Obv. Similar to the previous coin.
Rev. Similar to the previous coin.
1.27 Copper, 0.6 gm, 12 mm, Biddulph.

Obv. Seated figure of king with the legend *Ra ja / Ra ja* under the left arm.
Rev. Tamil legend restored as *Parakesari.*
The reading is doubtful and the legend can also be read as *Vikra(ma).* It is not sure whether Rajaraja was known by this title or is this the coin of Vikrama Chola ?
1.28 Copper, 0.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Seated figure of king with the legend *Ra ja / Ra ja* under the left arm.
Rev. Tamil legend *kka* or *kra.* Is the legend part of *Vikrama* ?
1.29 Copper, 2.4 gm, 16 mm, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Seated figure as usual; Nagari legend *Raja / Raja.*
Rev. Boar to right; state umbrella above.

1.30 Copper, 3.2 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Usual seated figure; Nagari legend *Raja / Raja* on the right; a tiger in the left field ?
Rev. Boar, above sun, moon and an indistinct symbol.

1.31 Copper, 3.2 gm, 20 mm, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Boar between lampstands; umbrella above.

1.32 Copper, 0.6 gm, 14 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure of Krishna playing flute; Tamil *Vi* in the right field.
Rev. Seated figure of king; Nagari legend *Sri / Raja / Raja.*
The coin is in the collection of American Numismatic Society.

1.33 Copper, 0.7 gm, 13 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Horseman moving to right.
Rev. Seated figure of king with Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Ra ja.*
The coin is in the collection of American Numismatic Society.
1.34 Copper, 0.6 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Similar to the previous coin.
Rev. Similar to the previous coin.

Rajendra Chola I (1012-1044)

1.35 Gold, 3.9 gm, 19 mm, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Within border of dots, under a parasol flanked by two flywhisks, the following figures from left to right – a lampstand, a strung bow, a tiger, two fishes, and another lampstand below Nagari legend *Sri Rajendra.*
Rev. Same as obverse.
1.36 Gold, 4.4 gm, 12 mm, R. Shanthi.

Obv. Within border of dots, a seated tiger facing right; to its right is a fish; Tamil Grantha legend around *Mu di ko nda cho la n.*
Rev. Same as obverse.

1.37 Gold, 4.3 gm, 29 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy (2002).

Obv. Under a parasol, the following figures from left to right – a lampstand, two fishes, a seated tiger, a strung bow, another lampstand; Tamil Grantha legend around *Mu di ko nda cho la n 29.*
Rev. Blank.

1.38 Gold, 4.1 gm, 20 mm.

Obv. Within border of dots, under a parasol flanked by two flywhisks, the following figures from left to right – a lampstand, a strung bow, a tiger, two fishes, and another lampstand below Nagari legend *Gangaikonda Chola.*
Rev. Same as obverse.

1.39 Gold, 4.0 gm, 19 mm, R. Vanaja.

Obv. Seated figure of king with a seated tiger flanked by two lamps under canopy.
Rev. Standing figure; in the right field legend *Sri / Ra je / ndra.*

1.40 Silver, 3.8 gm, 19 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Within border of dots, under a parasol flanked by two fly whisks, the following figures from left to right – a lampstand, a strung bow, a tiger, two fishes, another lampstand; below Nagari legend *Sri Ra je ndra.*
Rev. Same as obverse.

1.41 Silver, 4.1 gm, 20 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Within border of dots, under a parasol flanked by two flywhisks, the following figures from left to right – a lampstand, a strung bow, a tiger, two fishes, and another lampstand below Nagari legend *Gangaikonda Cholah.*
Rev. Same as obverse.

Rajadhiraja I (1018-1054)

1.42 Gold, 4.0 gm, 19 mm, Chattopadhyaya, R. Vanaja.

Obv. Standing figure of king; in the field to the right Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / dhi ra / ja.*
Rev. Seated figure of king; in the right field a seated tiger between two lampstands.

Kulottunga I (1070-1120)

1.43 Gold, 4.0 gm, 38 mm, Chattopadhyaya, R. Vanaja.
Obv. In the centre, tiger facing left, surmounted by the sun, a chowrie bearer and crescent; legend around in Kannada the letters being punched separately *Sri Cholanarayana.*
Rev. Blank.
1.44 Gold, 3.8 gm, 30 mm, Chattopadhyaya.
Obv. In the centre, tiger facing left, surmounted by the sun, a chowrie bearer and crescent; legend around in Kannada the letters being punched separately *Sri Chalukhurayana.*
Rev. Blank.
1.45 Gold, 4.2 gm, 24 mm, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.
Obv. In the centre, the following figures from left to right – a lampstand, two fishes, a tiger, a bow, another lampstand;

legend around in Tamil Grantha *Ma lai na du ko nda* followed by regnal year. The years seen are 33, 34, 35 and 36.
Rev. Blank.

1.45

1.46

1.46 Gold, 4.2 gm, 23 mm, Chattopadhyaya.
Obv. In the centre, the following figures from left to right – a lampstand, two fishes, a tiger, a bow, another lampstand; legend around in Tamil Grantha *Ka tai ko nda* followed by regnal year. The years seen are 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33.
Rev. Blank.

1.47 Gold, 4.3 gm, 29 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy (2002).

Obv. Under a parasol, the following figures from left to right – a lampstand (?), two fishes, a seated tiger, a strung bow, another lampstand; Tamil Grantha legend around *Tya ga ba ra na 47.*
Rev. Blank.

1.48 Gold, 0.25 gm, 7 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.
Obv. Tiger; to right is a fish; crescent above.
Obv. Tamil legend *Sung*, and numeral ?

1.49 Gold, 0.25 gm, 7 mm, Biddulph.
Obv. Same as above except that the position of the tiger and fish are interchanged.
Obv. Same as above.

1.50 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, a seated tiger with head facing to left; in front of the tiger are a fish and lampstand.
Rev. Scroll design.

1.51 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. A seated tiger and a fish flanked by lampstand on left and a parasol (?) on the right; above an umbrella flanked by moon on left and sun and a conch on the right.
Rev. Tamil legend and numeral *A va ni / 45.*

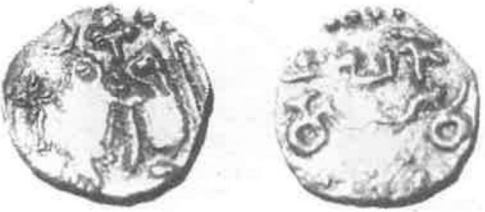
1.52 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, a seated tiger with head facing left; in front of the tiger are a fish and a lampstand; above an umbrella.
Rev. Tamil legend and numeral *A va ni / 44.*

1.53 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Seated tiger with head facing right; in front of the tiger a lampstand and behind a bow; above an umbrella.
Rev. Two fishes; around Tamil legend *A va ni mu lu du 4 -.*
1.54 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, from left to right; a lampstand, two fishes and a seated tiger; above an umbrella.
Rev. Tamil legend and numeral *A va ni / 4 -.*
1.55 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.



Obv. A seated tiger with head facing left; in front of the tiger are a fish and a lampstand, behind a bow; above an umbrella flanked on left by moon and on the right by sun.
Rev. Tamil legend and numeral *A va ni / 44.*
1.56 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Seated tiger with head facing left; in front of the tiger are a fish and a lampstand.

Rev. A fish and bow ; around Tamil legend and numeral *A va ni 4 -.*

1.57 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, from left to right; a lampstand, two fishes and a seated tiger; above an umbrella flanked on left by sun and on the right by moon.
Rev. Tamil legend and numeral *A va ni / mu lu du / 4 -.*

1.58 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, a fish flanked on left by lampstand and on the right by a seated tiger; above sun and moon.
Rev. Tamil legend and numeral *A va ni / mu lu du / 4 -.*

1.59 Gold, 0.25 gm, 9 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, from left to right; a lampstand, a fish, a seated tiger and a bow; above sun, moon and a conch.
Rev. Tamil legend and numeral *A va ni / mu lu du / 4 -.*

1.60 Gold, 0.05 gm, 5 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, seated tiger with head facing right; in front of the tiger are a fish and a bow.
Rev. Tamil letters *lu du.*

1.61 Gold, 0.05 gm, 5 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. A seated tiger with head facing to right; in front of the tiger are a fish and a lampstand; above an umbrella.
Rev. Within a circle of dots, Tamil numeral *5.*

1.62 Gold, 0.05 gm, 5 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, a fish on the left and a seated tiger on the right.
Rev. Within a circle of dots, Tamil numeral *4.*

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COINS OF THE PANDYAS

The history of the Pandyas is spread over more than thousand years and is dealt in three phases. The first kingdom ruled during the Sangam period and could be dated between 250 BC to about third century AD. During the third century their power declined with the rise of the Pallavas. Nilakanta Sastri refers to the period from the middle of the third century to the middle of the sixth century AD as the dark age of the Pandyas [1]. The second empire extended from the last decade of sixth century with the rise of Kadungon, to the beginning of the tenth century AD with the fall of Rajasimha II (900-920) to Chola Parantaka I. The third empire began with the decline of Chola empire in the thirteenth century and lasted for over three centuries. Their achievements were however substantial only in the thirteenth century.

During the time when the Cholas were powerful, the Pandyas were their subjects. When the Cholas weakened after Kulottunga Chola I (1070-1120), the Pandyas seized the opportunity. Kulasekhara Pandya (1162-1178) was the subject of Rajadhiraja Chola II while his successor Vira Pandya (1169 - 1187) was crowned by Rajadhiraja III but was replaced by Vikrama Pandya (1186-1190) by Kulottunga Chola III. In 1210 Jatavarman Kulasekhara I (1190 – 1214) declared independence. His brother Maravarman Sundara Pandya (1216 – 1244) won over Kulottunga Chola III. The Chola king Rajaraja III (1216 – 1246) was forced to be pay tributes to the Pandyas. Maravarman Sundara Pandya II (1238 – 1255), Jatavarman Sundara Pandya I (1251 – 1283) ensured expansion. Jatavarman Sundara Pandya expanded his kingdom over south by conquering the Venad Cheras and reduced the Chola king Rajendra II to a petty chief. Maravarman Kulasekhara Pandya (1268 – 1312) and his brother Jatavarman Sundara Pandya II (1277 – 1300) expanded the kingdom with victories over Hoysalas in northern Kongu. Jatavarman Sundara Pandya also had victories over Perunjinga Pallavas and then conquered Kanchi from the Telugu Chodas. Rulers who followed Jatavarman Sundara Pandya II are Maravarman Vikrama

Pandya (1283 – 1288), Jatavarman Vira Pandya II (1297 – 1343), Jatavarman Sundara Pandya III (1304 – 1320), Maravarman Sri Vallabha (1308 – 1320), Jatavarman Sri Vallabha (1308 – 1342), Jatavarman Rajaraja Sundara Pandya (1313 – 1335), Maravarman Kulasekara II (1314 – 1362), Jatavarman Parakrama I (1315 – 1333), Jatavarman Sundara Pandya IV (1318 – 1342), Jatavarman Sundara Pandya V (1329 – 1345), Maravarman Vikrama Pandya IV (1333 – 1340), Maravarman Vira Pandya (1334 – 1380), Maravarman Parakrama (1335 – 1362), Maravarman Sundara Pandya III (1344 – 1372), Jatavarman Vikrama II (1344 – 1352) and Jatavarman Parakrama II (1358 – 1387) [2]. Internal feuds and invasion by Malik Kafur followed by Ghias-ud-din Tughluq's campaign brought about the decline of Pandyan power.

Coinage

The known coins of Pandyas are only in copper and pose difficulty in the determination of the issuer. Most of the coins bear either the names of the issuer such as Vira Pandya or Sundara Pandya or titles such as *Ellantalianan* on the reverse. With the unchanged typology of the coins, it is at times difficult to determine as to which of the Vira Pandya or Sundara Pandya issued the coins. Also some of the titles seen on the coins have no epigraphical equivalent [3].

Some assumptions can be made on the issuer. The coins with legend *Sundara Pandya* was possibly issued by Maravarman Sundara Pandya (1216 – 1244) who had decisive victories over the Cholas. Based on the titles *Sri Sonadukondaruliya* etc. borne by him, the coins that bear the legend *Sonadukondan* can also be attributed to him. The fact that he conquered Kanchi, the coin with legend *Kachchivalungum perumal* can be attributed to him. The coin with legend *Vira Pandya* can be attributed to Jatavarman Vira Pandya (1253 – 1283) who ruled in association with Jatavarman Sundara Pandya I. The coins with legend *Ellantaliyanan* can be attributed to Jatavarman Sundara Pandya I who had this title in the epigraphs. However other types with legends such as *Vema Perumal*, *Avanipendran* etc. cannot be attributed to any particular king.

Description of Coins

Maravarman Sundara Pandya I (1216 – 1244)

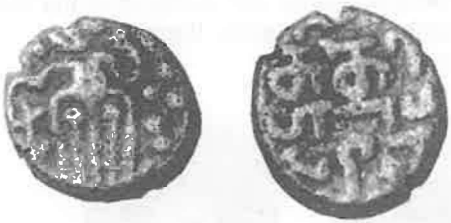
2.1 Copper, 1.3 gm, 12 mm, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. In the centre, a seated figure with hands joined in worship; Tamil legend around *Sundara Pandiyan.*
Rev. Two fishes bent outwards with a crozier in the middle; above the state umbrella, flanked by flags.
2.2 Copper, 1.6 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. In the centre, a seated figure with hands joined in worship; Tamil legend around *Sundara Pandiyan.*
Rev. Three fishes (?).
2.3 Copper, 1.6 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. In the centre, a seated figure with hands joined in worship; Tamil legend around *Sundara Pandiyan.*
Rev. Seated figure with Tamil *Su* to the right.
2.4 Copper, 1.1 gm, 12 mm.

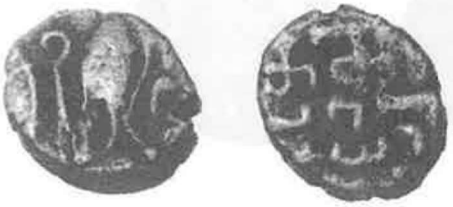
Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Tamil legend *Sundara / Pandiyan*; crescent above.
2.5 Copper, 0.9 gm, 11 mm.



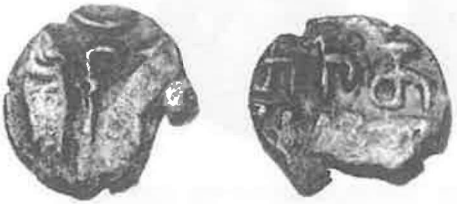
Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Tamil legend *Sundara / Pandiyan;* below two fishes separated by a sceptre.
2.6 Copper, 0.8 gm, 8 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Tamil legend *Sundara Pandiyan.*
This is a small coin, distinguishable from the previous coins of

similar type by its crudeness and thicker variety.
2.7 Copper, 2.1 gm, 12 mm, Elliot, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.



Obv. Two vertical fish with a crozier between them.
Rev. Tamil legend *Sundara / Pan / diyan.*
2.8 Copper, 1.1 gm, 12 mm.



Obv. Two vertical fish with a crozier between them.
Rev. Tamil legend *Sunda(ra Pandiyan).*
2.9 Copper, 0.5 gm, 7mm.

Obv. Two vertical fish.
Rev. Tamil legend (*Su*)*nda.*

2.10 Copper, 2.3 gm, 15 mm, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Seated figure and Tamil legend *Sundara Pandiyan.*

2.11 Copper, 1.6 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. A standing figure; *Vishnupadam* in the right field.
Rev. Seated figure and Tamil legend *Sundara Pandiyan.*

2.12 Copper, 1.5 gm, 13 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. A boar to right with sun and moon above.
Rev. Two fishes separated by a crozier; above the Tamil legend *Sundara Pa / ndiyan.*

2.13 Copper, 1.0 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. A boar to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Su nda;* below fish and crozier.

2.14 Copper, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.
Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Tamil legend *Sonadukondan.*

2.15 Copper, 2.7 gm, 17 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Two fishes shown crosswise, with following emblems appearing in different order in each different issue in the angles formed by the intersection of fishes - the *chank*, the sceptre, the trident, the crescent and Tamil letter *Su.*
Rev. Four-line Tamil legend *Kachivalangum perumal.*

Jatavarman Vira Pandya (1253 – 1283)

2.16 Copper, 2.8 gm, 18 mm, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Two fishes and a crozier between them; above Tamil legend *Vira Pandiyan.*

Jatavarman Sundara Pandya I (1251 – 1283)

2.17 Copper, 4.3 gm, 20 mm, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ellantaliyanan.*
2.18 Copper, 2.8 gm, 18 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. A fish flanked by lamps; Tamil legend around *Ellantaliyanan.*
2.19 Copper, 2.6 gm, 18 mm, Elliot, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Two fishes; Tamil legend around *Ellantaliyanan.*
2.20 Copper, 2.5 gm, 18 mm, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Two fishes; Tamil legend between the fishes *Ellantaliyanan.*

Jatavarman Sundara Pandya III (1304 – 1320)

2.21 Copper, 3.2 gm, 15 mm, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Two fishes separated by a sceptre.
Rev. Tamil legend *Kodandaraman.*
2.22 Copper, 2.5 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Two fishes separated by a sceptre.

Rev. Tamil legend *Kodandaraman.*

2.23 Copper, 2.9 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Vishnupadam.
Rev. Tamil legend *Koda / ndara (man).*

Maravarman Kulasekara Pandya II (1314 – 1362)

2.24 Copper, 2.8 gm, 14 mm, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Two fishes separated by a crozier; above, Tamil legend *Kulasekaran.*

2.25 Copper, 1.7 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Two fishes separated by a crozier; below, Tamil legend *Kulasekaran.*

2.26 Copper, 1.2 gm, 15 mm, Desikachari.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Tamil legend *Kulasekaran.*

2.27 Copper, Elliot, Biddulph, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.
Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Elephant to right, Tamil legend *Mara.*

2.28 Copper, 3.5 gm, 17 mm, Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. A crude standing figure.
Rev. Elephant to left, above between a conch and discus, Tamil legend *Mara.*
The attribution of the above two coins to the Pandyas is doubtful.

Pandyas – Uncertain

2.29 Copper, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.
Obv. A standing figure; to left two fishes separated by a crozier.
Rev. Seated figure; to left Tamil legend *Jagavira.*

2.30 Copper, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.
Obv. A fish flanked by lampstands; above an umbrella.
Rev. Below an umbrella, Tamil legend *Avanipendran.*

2.31 Copper, 2.3 gm, 20 mm, Elliot, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.
Obv. Vishnupadam.
Rev. Tamil legend *Kaliyugaraman.*
2.32 Copper, 2.8 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Vishnupadam.
Rev. Tamil legend *Kaliyugaraman;* above sun flanked by *chowries.*
2.33 Copper, 1.6 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Two fishes separated by a state umbrella.
Rev. Tamil legend *..tiya Vema Perumal.*
2.34 Copper, 1.8 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Two fishes separated by a state umbrella.

Rev. Tamil legend ..*vu Vema Perumal.*

2.35 Copper, 2.0 gm, 15 mm, Desikachari, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Two fishes separated by a state umbrella.
Rev. Tamil legend *Vema Perumal.*

2.36 Copper, 2.8 gm, 17 mm, Biddulph, R. Nagaswamy.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Tiger passant to left; above two fishes separated by a sceptre.

2.37 Copper, 2.5 gm, 16 mm, Elliot, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Seated figure with fish to its left.

2.38 Copper, 2.5 gm, 16 mm, Elliot, Biddulph.

Obv. Horse galloping to right, under three symbols indistinguishable.
Rev. Two fishes, separated by a sceptre; above a bull to left with *chowries* (?).
2.39 Copper, 2.5 gm, 16 mm, Desikachari.

Obv. Standing king.
Rev. Single fish between sun and moon.
2.40 Copper, 0.8 gm, 13 mm, Desikachari.

Obv. Standing king.
Rev. Two fishes separated by a sceptre.
The above coin is in the collection of American Numismatic Society.
2.41 Copper, 0.7 gm, 11 mm, Barbara Mears.

Obv. Standing *Muralidhara.*
Rev. Two fishes separated by a sceptre.
The above coin is in the collection of American Numismatic Society. Chola coin (1.32) with similar obverse exists. This is being reported for the first time and the credit for the attribution should go to Barbara Mears.

2.42 Copper, 2.1 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Two fishes crossed; state umbrella (?) above.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ka ni ya va ra vi* --.
Desikachari mentions of similar coin with the reverse legend *Kaniya.vi.pe.*

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COINS OF KONGU CHERAS

Ravikandan alias Virachola of Namakkal charter is the name with whom the rulers of Kongu from tenth century begin. During this time, the Pandya power was on the decline and Virachola aligned himself with the Chola king Parantaka I. Virachola Kalimurkka succeeded him. From his time, he and his successors are mentioned as *Kongu Cholas*, in the annual reports of South Indian Epigraphy since they had assumed the names and titles of the imperial Cholas of Thanjavur. However they were not of Chola stock and were of the Yadava origin of the Kodumbalur Velir family. The rulers of the Kongu region during this period were – Virachola Kalimurkka (967 – 1005), Kalimurkka Vikrama Chola (1005 – 1047), Vikramachola Abhimana (1047 – 1088), Abhimanachola Rajadhiraja (1088 – 1100), Rajadhiraja Uttamachola (1100 – 1117), Rajadhiraja Virachola (1117 – 1127), Uttamachola Viranarayana (1127 – 1137), Rajaraja Karikala (1137 – 1175), Rajakesari Kulottunga (1150 – 1168), Parakesari Virachola (1168 – 1193), Rajakesari Virarajendra (1207 – 1256), Parakesari Vikramachola II (1256 – 1264), Vikramachola III (1274 – 1304) [1]. Jatavarman Sundara Pandya (1251 – 1283) conquered southern part of Kongu while Hoysala Somesvara (1234 – 1263) raided northern part and captured the Salem district. Vira Ballala III occupied Kongu but later the region passed on to the Madurai Sultans. Kongu Cholas in western Kongu who were isolated, allied themselves with Venad Cheras. They ruled till Vijayanagar occupied Kongu in 1343.

Coinage

The coins exhibit a stereotype in which the obverse has a bow and a palm tree and between them are seen one or more symbols. The reverse design has an altar on which two swords are placed crossed, perhaps for worship. Between the swords are dots, the significance of which is not clear. It is interesting to note that similar dots are also seen on coins of Venad rulers. According to Mitchiner, Kongu Cheras issued these coins after

they allied themselves with Venad rulers. However, it is likely that the coins were also issued by the earlier rulers. M.H. Krishna, Ramaswamy and Michael Mitchiner have described several varieties.

Description of Coins

3.1 Copper, 5.6 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Bow; symbols with crescent above; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.

3.2 Copper, 5.6 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Bow; symbols; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.

3.3 Copper, 4.4 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Bow; symbol with pellets; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.

3.4 Copper, 3.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; symbol with pellets; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.5 Copper, 3.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; tortoise below which is a star like symbol; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.6 Copper, 3.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; elephant to left, above cross and pellets; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.7 Copper, 3.2 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; elephant to left with lamps flanked by pellets above; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.8 Copper, 3.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; seated Lakshmi; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.9 Copper, 3.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; flag; fish; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.10 Copper, 3.8 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; fish like symbol with crescent above; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.11 Copper, 3.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; ankusa (?) with star like symbol below; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.12 Copper, 3.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; star and other symbols; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.13 Copper, 3.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow (?); symbol; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.14 Copper, 3.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; two lamps with pellets; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.15 Copper, 3.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; symbol with crescent above; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.16 Copper, 4.3 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Bow; big post with pellets; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.17 Copper, 3.9 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Bow; conch and sun; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.18 Copper, 3.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; lamp(?), above sun; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.19 Copper, 3.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; battle axe; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.20 Copper, 3.7 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; lamp with pellets; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.21 Copper, 3.9 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Bow; square above a cross; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.22 Copper, 3.7 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; cross above which is Tamil *Na* and crescent; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.
3.23 Copper, 3.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bow; sun, moon and pellets; palm tree.
Rev. Two swords crossed on an altar with pellets above, flanked by two lamps.

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COINS OF MADURAI SULTANS

Jalal-ud-din Ahsan Shah (1333-1338) was appointed as governor of Madurai after it was conquered by Muhammad-bin-Tughluq. Ahsan Shah revolted in 1333, and declared independence. His rule was followed by Ala-ud-din Udauji Shah (1339), Qutb-ud-din Feroz Shah (1339-1340) and Ghiyas-ud-din Muhammad Damaghan Shah (1340-1344). Ibn-Batutah, the Arab traveler who visited Madurai during this time, says that a great number of Hindu captives were massacred by Damaghan Shah. Damaghan Shah killed the Hoysala ruler Ballala III and his stuffed skin was hung on the wall of Madurai. Mahmud Damaghan Shah (1344-1347) ruled after Muhammad Damaghan Shah. He was succeeded by Shams-ud-din Adil Shah (1348-1358), Fakhr-ud-din Mubarak Shah (1358-1368) and Ala-ud-din Sikandar Shah (1372-1377). The kingdom was conquered by the Vijayanagar empire in 1377.

Coinage

The Madurai Sultans issued coins in gold, silver, billon and copper. The gold coins are extremely rare while the silver and billon coins are scarce. The gold coins of Muhammad Damaghan Shah, Mahmud Damaghan Shah and Shams-ud-din Adil Shah have been noticed. The metrology of the coins given below is from Dilip Rajgor.

Copper Coins: ¼ Tanka = 1 gm; ½ Tanka = 2 gm; Tanka = 3-4 gm
Billon Coins: Tanka = 3-4 gm
Silver Coins: ¼ Tanka = 3-4 gm
Gold Coins : ½ Tanka = 5.9 gm; Tanka = 10.9-13.6 gm

A silver coin in the name of Mari shah has been observed for the first time.

Description of Coins

In the name of Ghias-ud-din Tughluq I (1320-1325)

4.1 Billon, 4.0 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Tughluq shah.*
Rev. Persian legend *Al-sultan al-azam.*

In the name of Muhammad III bin Tughluq (1325-1351)

4.2 Copper, 2.5 gm, 14 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Muhammad bin Tughluq shah.*
Rev. Persian legend *Al Imam al adil.*

Jalal-ud-din Ahsan Shah (1333-1338)

4.3 Silver, 3.3 gm, 14 mm, Dilip Rajgor (the date mentioned as 739).

Obv. Persian legend *Ahsan Shah 738.*

Rev. Persian legend *Al-hasili.*

4.4 Silver, 3.2 gm, 15 mm, Dilip Rajgor.
Obv. Persian legend *Ahsan Shah 737.*
Rev. Persian legend *Jalal-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*
Other known dates 735.

4.5 Billon, 3.1 gm, 14 mm, Dilip Rajgor.
Obv. In the centre *Ahsan Shah* around Persian legend and date 734.
Rev. Persian legend *Sultan al-saltin.*

4.6 Copper, 4.5 gm, 15 mm, Dilip Rajgor, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Ahsan shah al sultan.*
Rev. Persian legend *Al-sultan al-azam.*

4.7 Copper, 4.5 gm, 15 mm, Dilip Rajgor.
Obv. Persian legend *Al-sultan al-azam.*
Rev. Persian legend *Jalal-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*

Ala-ud-din Udauji Shah (1339)

4.8 Billon, 3.6 gm, 15 mm, Dilip Rajgor.
Obv. In circle, *Udauji shah*, margin Persian legend *Sanh arbain wa sab mayaha.*
Rev. Persian legend *Ala-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*

4.9 Copper, 4.0 gm, 15 mm, Dilip Rajgor, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Udauji shah al-sultan.*
Rev. Persian legend *Ala-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*

Qutub-ud-din Firoz Shah (1339-1340)

4.10 Copper, 4.0 gm, 15 mm, Dilip Rajgor, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Firoz shah 740.*
Rev. Persian legend *Qutub-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*

Ghiyas-ud-din Muhammad Damaghan Shah (1340-1344)

4.11 Billon, 3.0 gm, 15 mm, Dilip Rajgor.

Obv. In circle, *Muhammad Damaghan shah*, margin Persian legend.
Rev. Persian legend *Al-sultan al-azam Ala-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*

4.12 Copper, 4.1 gm, 15 mm, Dilip Rajgor, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Ghiyas-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*
Rev. Persian legend *Al-sultan al-azam.*

Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Damaghan Shah (1344-1347)

4.13 Billon, 2.7 gm, 15 mm, Dilip Rajgor.

Obv. Persian legend *Nasir-ud-duniya wa-ud-din.*
Rev. Persian legend *Al-sultan Mahmud Damaghan shah Ghazi.*

Shams-ud-din Adil Shah (1348-1358)

4.14 Copper, 1.1 gm, 11 mm, Dilip Rajgor, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Adil shah al sultan.*
Rev. Persian legend *Al-sultan al-azam.*

Fakhr-ud-din Mubarak Shah (1358-1368)

4.15 Copper, 1.7 gm, 12 mm, Dilip Rajgor, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Al nabi ba safa 764.*
Rev. Persian legend *Muhammad mustafi.*
Other known dates ND, 760, 761, 763, 765, 767-770.

4.16 Copper, 1.3 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Al-sultan barguzidah.*
Rev. Persian legend *Fakhra-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*

4.17 Copper, 1.3 gm, 11 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Burguzid Ilah Fakhr-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*
Rev. Persian legend *Mubarak shah jahan 761.*

4.18 Copper, 1.6 gm, 11 mm, Dilip Rajgor, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Khadam Mustafi 767.*
Rev. Persian legend *Barguzid Ilah.*

Ala-ud-din Sikandar Shah (1372-1377)

4.19 Copper, 1.4 gm, 11 mm, Dilip Rajgor, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Sikandar shah al sultan 779.*
Rev. Persian legend *Barguzid Allah.*
Other known date – 774.

4.20 Copper, 4.0 gm, 14 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Sikandar shah al sultan.*
Rev. Persian legend *Ala-ud-duniya wa ud-din.*

Mari Shah ?

4.21 Billon, 3.0 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. In circle, *Mari shah*, margin Persian legend.
Rev. Persian legend *Al-sultan / Al-sultan.*

References:

1. Dilip Rajgor, *Sultanate Coins*, Amarpali Publications, MCMXCI, pp. 197-200.
2. Michael Mitchiner, *The Coinage and History of Southern India*, Part Two, 1998, pp. 153-155.

COINS OF MADURAI NAYAKS

The Nayakship of Madurai was founded during the days of the Vijayanagar king Krishnadevaraya and confirmed by his successor Achyutaraya. Krishnadevaraya appointed Nagama to govern the Pandya country but when Nagama turned against him, his son Viswanatha was sent to conquer him. Story goes that Viswanatha conquered and imprisoned his father and when the king wanted to know as to what he wanted for his valor, Viswanatha asked for the release of his father.

Viswanatha Nayak (1529-1564) was throughout his rule a loyal feudatory of the Vijayanagar king Sadasivaraya and the defacto ruler Ramaraya. His loyalty ensured the expansion of his kingdom to encompass Madurai, Kongu and Ramnad. The Pandyas were his feudatories. Trichy was exchanged for Vallam with the Sevappa Nayak of Thanjavur. Viswanatha's son Krishnappa Nayak (1564 - 1572) succeeded his father. During his period the battle of Talikota was fought and it appears that Krishnappa and his general Ariyanatha Mudaliyar took part in the battle. Virappa Nayak (1572-1595) succeeded his father on the throne towards end of 1572. His rule was a period of peace and prosperity. Krishnappa Nayak II (1595-1601) the eldest son of Virappa was a loyal feudatory of the Vijayanagar king Venkata II. Muthu Krishnappa Nayak (1601-1609) was engaged in peaceful work and orderly administration. He made Sadaika Deva, Udaiyan Sethupati, as incharge of Marava country. Muthu Virappa Nayak (1609-1626) joined Jaggaraya the traitor, in the war of succession that followed the death of Venkata II. However Yachama Nayak and Raghunatha Nayak of Thanjavur defeated them. The invasion of Raja Wodeyar of Mysore was repulsed. He changed the capital from Madurai to Trichy. Tirumala Nayak (1623-1659) was an outstanding ruler. He succeeded his brother Muthu Virappa and during his reign, waged many wars, with some successes and others where he had to retreat. He had to fight against Mysore for long period. Together with his general Ramappayan, he chased the Mysore forces of Chamaraja into their territory. A war was also fought against Kantirava

Narasaraja Wodeyar of Mysore. He won against Sadaika Deva II Sethupati who revolted against him. Tirumala Nayak is also known for his contribution towards art and literature. Muthu Virappa II (1659) ruled for a short period and was succeeded by Chokkanatha Nayak (1659-1682). Chokkanatha fought against Vijayaraghava Nayak of Thanjavur and captured Vallam but only for a short period. He fought an unsuccessful battle against Tirumalai Sethupati, who was exempted from paying tribute and highly honoured by Tirumala Nayak. Muthu Virappa Nayak III (1682-1689) inherited only part of the territories; the others lost during the period of Chokkanatha to Mysore, Thanjavur Marathas and the Sethupatis. He was succeeded by Vijayaranga Chokkanatha who was only three months old. Mangamma the grandmother of Chokkanatha became the regent. Her regency synchronised with Aurangzeb's quest for conquest of south. Vijayaranga Chokkanatha and his wife Minakshi (1732-1736) ruled after Mangamma's regency. Minakshi was held captive and put in prison by Chanda Sahib, the Nawab of Arcot. She ended her life by consuming poison and with that the rule of Madurai Nayaks came to an end.

Coinage

Viswanatha Nayak issued coins in his name. Some of these coins style himself as a Pandya possibly to proclaim himself as the successor of Pandyas. The large crescent seen on atleast one of his coin, traces his lunar lineage. The other kings who issued coins in their names are Muthu Krishnappa Nayak, Tirumala Nayak, Mangamma and Minakshi.

Several coins bearing the anonymous inscription *Sri Vira* were issued by the Madurai Nayaks. These vary in fabric and show degradation over time. However the variety of obverse devices stand out. Some of the latter coins were the restruck which accounts for their concave reverse with faintly struck legends. The period of these coins is assigned as 1601-1736 by Mitchiner. According to him, these coins were struck from the period of Muthu Krishnappa Nayak to the conquest of Madurai by the Nawabs of Arcot. Interestingly, a coin with *Sri Vira* on the obverse and Tamil *Na* on the reverse has been observed and is reported under Nawabs of Arcot issue. This may be the transition coin from Madurai Nayaks issue to the regular Nawab issues from Madurai region.

Coins with the names of Madurai, Palani towns as well as Virupasi are attributed to the Madurai Nayaks. These coins were initially attributed to the Pandyas. However paleographically these coins are definitely of a later period. Their fabric does not match with the well known coins of the Pandyas.

Since early rulers were loyal feudatories of the Vijayanagar, coins issued in the name of Vijayanagar sovereign were also in vogue.

Description of Coins

In the name of Venkatapatiraya II (1586-1614)

5.1 Copper, 3.3 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Two-line Telugu legend with rule separating the line *Ve m ka / ta pa.*

5.2 Copper, 3.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Telugu legend *ta pa* (part of *Ve m ka ta pa*).
Several die variations of the above two coins exist.

5.3 Copper, 1.7 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Two-line Telugu legend with rule separating the line *Ve m ka / ta pa.*

Viswanatha Nayak (1529-1564)

5.4 Copper, 3.4 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Standing figure; in the right field is a lampstand.
Rev. Two fishes; legend around *Pa..Vi swa na tha n.*
5.5 Copper, 4.0 gm, 15 mm, R. Nagaswamy, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Two fishes separated by a sceptre; legend around *Vi swa na tha n.*
5.6 Copper, 2.5 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Two fishes; above Tamil legend *Pa n / di ya n.*
Rev. Tamil legend *Vi swa / na (tha n)*; above a large crescent.
5.7 Copper, 2.7 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Two fishes separated by a sceptre.
Rev. Tamil legend *Vi swa na tha n* around a central object which is effaced.
5.8 Copper, 2.6 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Seated figure; on the right field is Tamil letter *Vi.*
Rev. Standing figure; in the right field are two fishes separated by a sceptre.
5.9 Copper, 5.5 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Couchant bull to left; above sun and moon.
Rev. Legend in Tamil and Telugu *Vi / si va*; *Vi* is in Tamil and *Si* and *Va* are in Telugu.
5.10 Copper, 1.4 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Legend in Tamil and Telugu *Vi / su va.*

Muthu Krishnappa Nayak (1601-1609)

5.11 Copper, 2.2 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Fish; above legend not clear.
Rev. Telugu legend *Kri shna ppa.*
5.12 Copper, 1.9 gm, 14 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Telugu legend *Ti ru ve / m ga la.*
Rev. Telugu legend *Mu du / Kri shna.*
Other coins
Copper, 2.2 gm, 14 mm
Copper, 2.6 gm, 14 mm
Copper, 3.0 gm, 15 mm
Copper, 4.1 gm, 15 mm
Copper, 4.6 gm, 16 mm
Copper, 4.9 gm, 16 mm

Tirumala Nayak (1623-1659)

5.13 Copper, 2.2 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Elephant to left.
Rev. Within an ornamental square border, Telugu letter *Ti.*
5.14 Copper, 0.9 gm, 6 mm, K. Ganesh and S. Raman.

Obv. Chariot.

Rev. Telugu/Kannada legend *Ti ru ma la.*

5.15 Copper, 0.9 gm, 6 mm, K. Ganesh and S. Raman.

Obv. Garuda.
Rev. Telugu/Kannada legend *Ti ru ma la.*

5.16 Copper, 0.9 gm, 6 mm, K. Ganesh and S. Raman.

Obv. Masted ship.
Rev. Telugu/Kannada legend *Ti ru ma la.*

5.17 Copper, 0.7 gm, 6 mm.

Obv. Boar.
Rev. Telugu/Kannada legend *Ti ru ma la.*

Mangamma (1690-1731)

5.18 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm, Jamal and Raman.

Obv. Kamadhenu right.
Rev. Within a square border Telugu legend *Ma m / ga ma.*
5.19 Copper, 2.0 gm, 12 mm, Jamal and Raman.

Obv. Figure playing veena - Saraswati (?).
Rev. Within a square border Telugu legend *Ma m / ga ma.*
5.20 Copper, 1.1 gm, 9 mm, Jamal and Raman.

Obv. Sivalinga.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.21 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Ganesa seated facing.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.22 Copper, 1.2 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Rama standing facing.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.23 Copper, 2.2 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Seated Narasimha.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.24 Copper, 2.1 gm, 12 mm, Jamal and Raman.

Obv. Narasimha standing.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.25 Copper, 2.2 gm, 12 mm, Jamal and Raman.

Obv. Lakshmi and Narasimha.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.26 Copper, 1.3 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Gandabherunda.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.27 Copper, 1.3 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Peacock right.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.28 Copper, 1.6 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Bird right.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.29 Copper, 1.1 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Animal looking back.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.30 Copper, 1.8 gm, 12 mm, Jamal and Raman.

Obv. Elephant to left.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*
5.31 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Standing figure with legs crossed.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma mga ma.*

The coins that follow have been read as *Sri Yajna* by Michael Mitchiner. However the reading appears to be *Sri Mangama.* These may have been the later issues of Mangamma..

5.32 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Two deities; Telugu legend *Sri* and *Ra ma* (?) on the sides.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma nga ma.*
5.33 Copper, 1.1 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Lion to right.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma nga ma.*
5.34 Copper, 3.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Lakshmi and Narasimha standing.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma nga ma.*
5.35 Copper, 2.9 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Two deities.
Rev. Telugu legend *Sri Ma nga ma.*
5.36 Copper, 2.8 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Vishnu standing; two figures are seen on either side below; sun and moon on left field.
Rev. Traces of Telugu legend *Sri Ma nga ma.*
The coin is restruck.
5.37 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Minakshi standing.
Rev. Peacock to right; above Tamil syllable *Ma.*

Minakshi (1732-1736)

5.38 Copper, 2.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Lion to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Mi na / t chi.*

5.39 Copper, 2.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Lion to left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Mi na / t chi.*

With legend *Palani*

5.40 Copper, 2.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Stylised Ganesa.

Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*

5.41 Copper, 2.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Ganesa.
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*

5.42 Copper, 1.6 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Fish; Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
Rev. Dagger (?).

5.43 Copper, 2.7 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Dagger flanked by sun and moon.
Rev. Around pellets in the centre, Tamil legend *Pa la ni*; another legend *Pa la* is also seen on the border - possibly restruck.

5.44 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Dagger flanked by sun and moon.
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni;* between the legend a cross.
5.45 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Dagger flanked by sun and moon.
Rev. A hollow cross with cross inside; around Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
5.46 Copper, 1.4 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Plant ?
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
5.47 Copper, 2.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Lion to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni* possibly restruck over *Madurai / Madura* coin.
5.48 Copper, 3.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Couchant bull to left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
5.49 Copper, 2.5 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Effaced.
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni* and *Ma du rai.*
Possibly restruck over *Madurai / Madura* coin.
5.50 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Deity ?
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
5.51 Copper, 1.8 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Trident.
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
5.52 Copper, 3.5 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Horse to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
5.53 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Floral pattern.
Rev. Around a dagger, Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
5.54 Copper, 1.6 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Spear (?).
Rev. Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
5.55 Copper, 1.6 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Spear; around Tamil legend *Pa la ni.*
Rev. Cross.
5.56 Copper, 2.1 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Sun and moon.
Rev. Traces of Tamil legend *Pa la ni;* probably restruck.

With legend *Madurai*

5.57 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm, Desikachari, Mitchiner.

Obv. Telugu legend *Ma du / ra.*
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma du / rai.*

With legend *Virupasi*

5.58 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Fish.
Rev. Tamil legend *Vi ru pa si.*

5.59 Copper, 2.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Four squares.
Rev. Tamil legend *Vi ru / pa si.*

5.60 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Star.
Rev. Tamil legend *Vi ru pa si.*

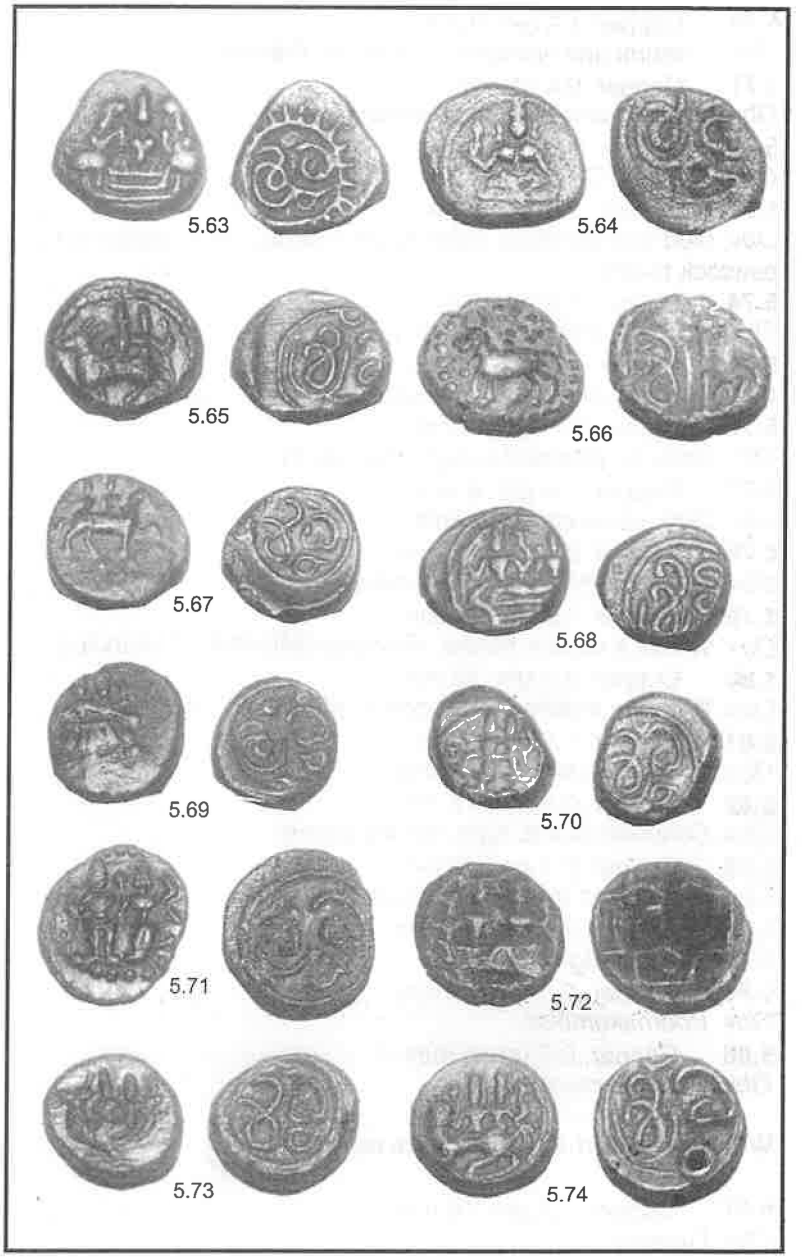
5.61 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Standing deity.
Rev. Tamil legend *Vi ru pa si.*
5.62 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Uncertain.
Rev. Tamil legend *Vi ru / pa si.*

With legend *Sri Vira* on reverse

5.63 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Gajalakshmi.
5.64 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Lakshmi seated.
5.65 Copper, 1.7gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Siva and Parvati seated on a bull to left.
5.66 Copper, 2.2 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Siva and Parvati (stylised) seated on a bull to left.
5.67 Copper, 1.6 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Siva and Parvati seated on a bull to right.
5.68 Copper, 1.5 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Siva and Parvati seated on a pedestal.
5.69 Copper, 1.3 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Ravana carrying Siva and Parvati.



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5.70 Copper, 1.8 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Lakshmi and Narayana carried by Garuda.

5.71 Copper, 0.4 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Lakshmi and Narayana standing.

5.72 Copper, 0.7 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. God and Goddess.

5.73 Copper, 1.1 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. God and Goddess (Brahma and Saraswati ?) seated on a peacock to left.

5.74 Copper, 1.2 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. God and Goddess on lion to left.

5.75 Copper, 2.8 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Within a *prabhavali*, Garuda standing facing.

5.76 Copper, 1.5 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Deity on elephant to right (Ayanar ?).

5.77 Copper, 1.8 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Deity on elephant to right.

5.78 Copper, 2.2 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Goddess (Minakshi ?) standing.

5.79 Copper, 1.5 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Within a square border, Goddess (Minakshi ?) standing.

5.80 Copper, 2.2 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Within a *prabhavali*, Goddess (Minakshi ?) seated.

5.81 Copper, 1.0 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Bull to left; below Sivalinga.

5.82 Copper, 2.3 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Couchant bull to right; behind a tree.

5.83 Copper, 2.1 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Peacock to left; above a bow.

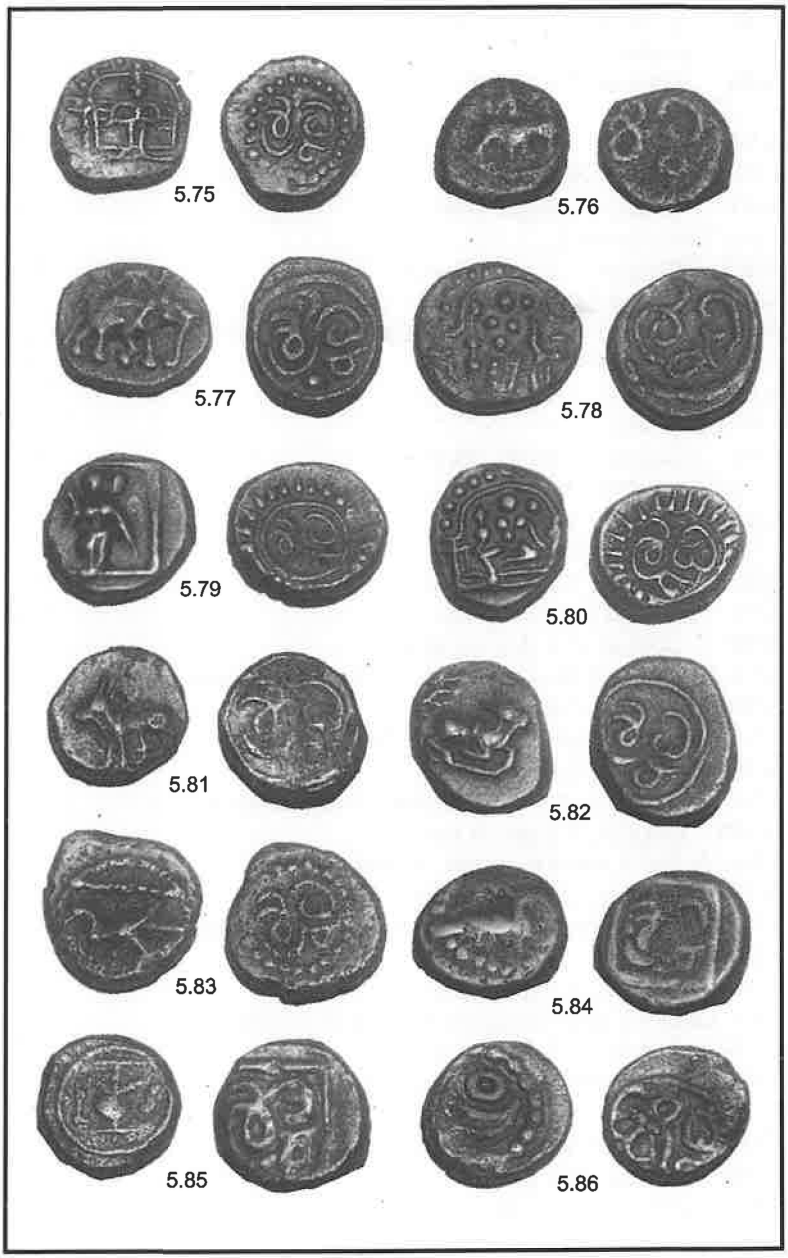
5.84 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Peacock right.

5.85 Copper, 2.1 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Poornakumbha.

5.86 Copper, 0.7 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Sun and crescent.

With legend *Sri Vi ra* on the reverse

5.87 Copper, 1.2 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Ganesa.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5.88 Copper, 1.1 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Ganesa.
5.89 Copper, 1.5 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Ganesa.
5.90 Copper, 0.9 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Ganesa stylised.
5.91 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Sakti Ganesa.
5.92 Copper, 1.5 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Siva and Parvati.
5.93 Copper, 1.7 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Siva and Parvati.
5.94 Copper, 1.1 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Nataraja.
5.95 Copper, 1.2 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Bull turning back; Sivalinga.
5.96 Copper, 1 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Sivalinga and Goddess.
5.97 Copper, 1.2 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Sivalinga and Goddess.
5.98 Copper, 1.4 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Within a floral framework; God and Goddess.
5.99 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. God and Goddess within a floral framework.
5.100 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Within an ornamental border, three *swamis* ?.
5.101 Copper, 0.9 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Within a square border, a lampstand ?
5.102 Copper, 0.8 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Sivalinga and Goddess represented stylised within a square.
5.103 Copper, 1.6 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Lakshmi and Narayana seated on a pedestal.
5.104 Copper, 1.5 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Garuda carrying Lakshmi and Vishnu.
5.105 Copper, 1.1 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Garuda carrying Lakshmi and Vishnu.
5.106 Copper, 0.9 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Seated Narasimha.

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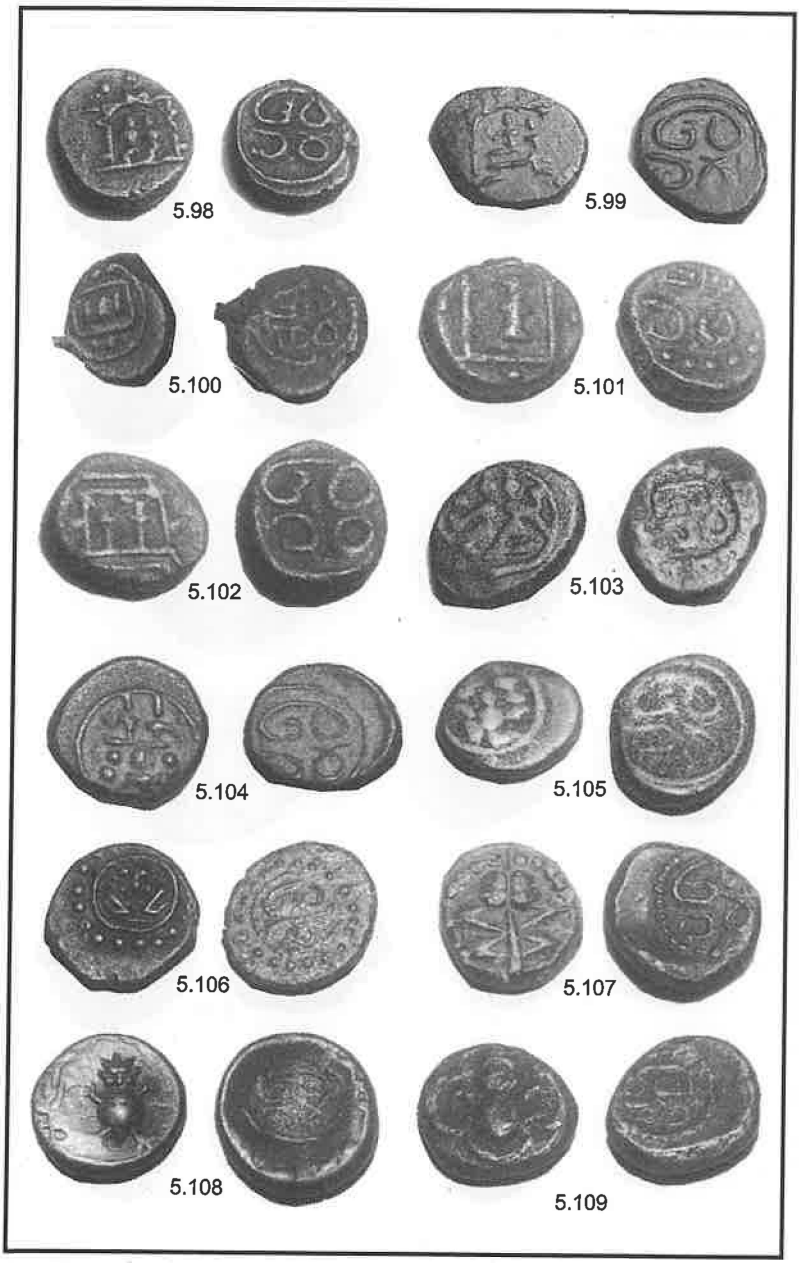
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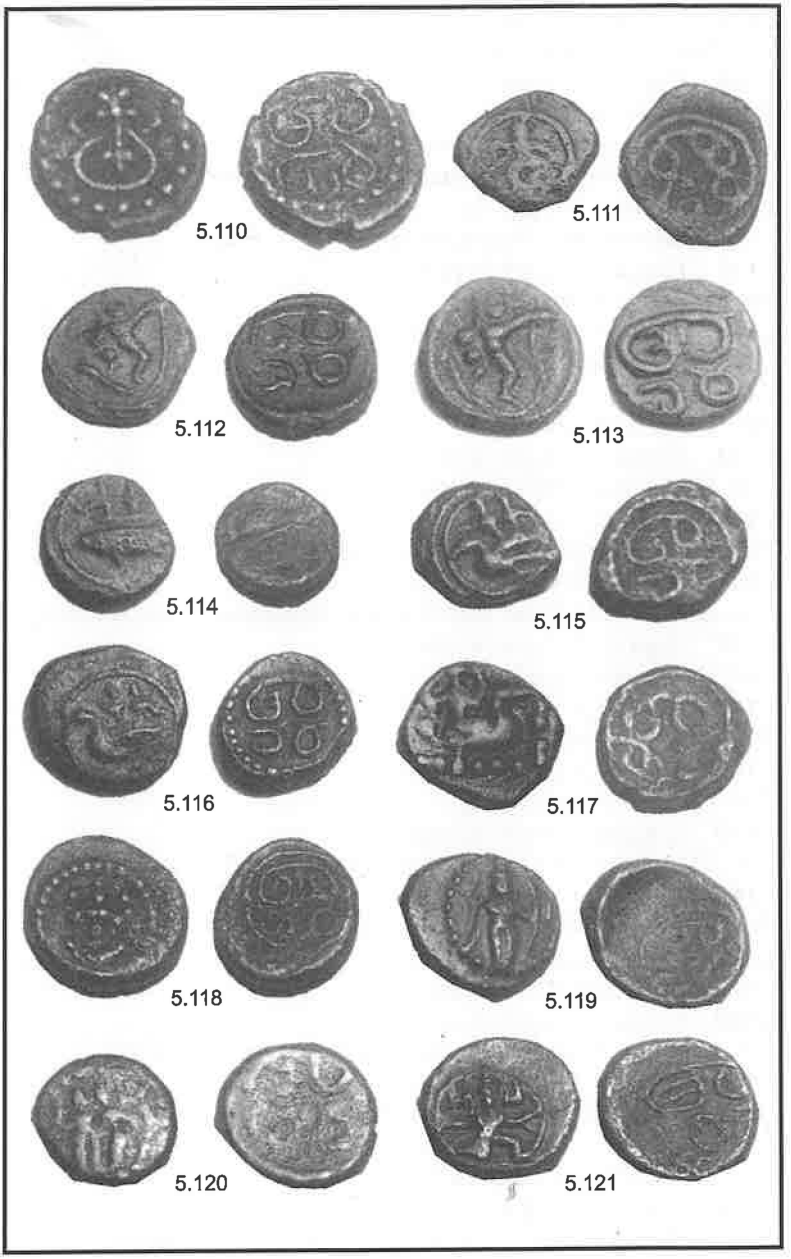

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5.107 Copper, 0.8 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Narasimha stylised.
5.108 Copper, 1.7 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Narasimha stylised.
5.109 Copper, 1.8 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Narasimha (?) within an ornamental border.
5.110 Copper, 2.1 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Seated Narasimha (stylised).
5.111 Copper, 1.0 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Dancing Krishna.
5.112 Copper, 2.8 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Dancing Krishna.
5.113 Copper, 1.2 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Dancing Krishna.
5.114 Copper, 0.6 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. God and Goddess; below a fish.
5.115 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. God and Goddess (Brahma and Saraswati ?) on peacock.
5.116 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. God and Goddess (Brahma and Saraswati ?) on peacock.
5.117 Copper, 0.7 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Kartikeya on peacock right.
5.118 Copper, 2.2 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Lakshmi seated facing.
5.119 Copper, 1.3 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Rama standing facing.
5.120 Copper, 1.1 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Standing God and Goddess (Rama and Sita ?).
5.121 Copper, 1.7 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Figure with five heads moving to right.
5.122 Copper, 2.9 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Matsya avatar of Vishnu.
5.123 Copper, 0.4 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Standing figure; to its right a fish and to left a snake.
5.124 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Figure seated with left hand raised.
5.125 Copper, 2.3 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Seated figure (Kubera ?).
5.126 Copper, 3.2 gm, 13 mm.
Obv. Within an ornamental enclosure, a standing figure.

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5.127 Copper, 1.0 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Uncertain.

5.128 Copper, 1.0 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Siva and Parvati seated on a bull turning back.

5.129 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Deity (Ayanar ?) on elephant to left.

5.130 Copper, 0.7 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Deity (Ayanar ?) on elephant to right.

5.131 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Deities on elephant left.

5.132 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. God and Goddess seated on a lion to left.

5.133 Copper, 0.5 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Garuda running towards left.

5.134 Copper, 0.6 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Hanuman to right.

5.135 Copper, 1.2 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Hanuman to right.

5.136 Copper, 2.4 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Garuda in *virasana* to right.

5.137 Copper, 2.3 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Garuda running towards right.

5.138 Copper, 0.7 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Boar to right.

5.139 Copper, 0.7 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Crab ?

5.140 Copper, 1.3 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Fish; above an ankusa.

5.141 Copper, 0.6 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Couchant bull left.

5.142 Copper, 1 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Couchant bull right.

5.143 Copper, 2.1 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Couchant bull to right within a rayed circle.

5.144 Copper, 1.2 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Couchant bull to right; above a flag (?).

5.145 Copper, 1.3 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Couchant bull left; above a flag (?).

5.146 Copper, 0.7 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Seated figure within a square border.

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5.147 Copper, 0.5 gm, 7 mm.
Obv. Standing person playing mridangam.
5.148 Copper, 0.7 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Lady seated.
5.149 Copper, 0.7 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Lady standing.
5.150 Copper, 1.4 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Figure moving left.
5.151 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Warrior on a horse.
5.152 Copper, 0.6 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Peacock to left; above a large crescent and sun.
5.153 Copper, 1.5 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Peacock to right.
5.154 Copper, 1.0 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Bird (crow ?) looking back.
5.155 Copper, 1.5 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Elephant to right.
5.156 Copper, 0.5 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Elephant to left.
5.157 Copper, 1.4 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Lion to right.
5.158 Copper, 1.5 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Lion to right.
5.159 Copper, 1.1 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Lion to left.
5.160 Copper, 1.0 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Lion to left.
5.161 Copper, 1.3 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Lion to right within a rayed square.
5.162 Copper, 0.5 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Lion(?) to right within an ornamental enclosure.
5.163 Copper, 1.5 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Yali to right.
5.164 Copper, 2.3 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Vaishnavite mark flanked by sun and moon.
5.165 Copper, 2.0 gm, 12 mm.
Obv. Trident flanked by two objects.
5.166 Copper, 1.7 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Sun and moon.

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5.167 Copper, 0.8 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Sun and moon.

5.168 Copper, 0.7 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Discus ?

5.169 Copper, 0.4 gm, 7 mm.
Obv. Chakram

5.170 Copper, 1.7 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Conch.

5.171 Copper, 0.7 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Within a triangle a star.

5.172 Copper, 0.6 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Six petalled lotus.

5.173 Copper, 1.5 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Temple ?

5.174 Copper, 0.5 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Temple.

5.175 Copper, 1.3 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Chariot.

5.176 Copper, 0.6 gm, 8 mm.
Obv. Chariot.

5.177 Copper, 1.5 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Poornakumbha.

5.178 Copper, 2.2 gm, 11 mm.
Obv. Yali to right.

5.179 Copper, 0.8 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Vamana avatar of Vishnu.

5.180 Copper, 1.5 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Face of Ganesa flanked by sun and crescent.

5.181 Copper, 0.7 gm, 9 mm.
Obv. Crane to left.

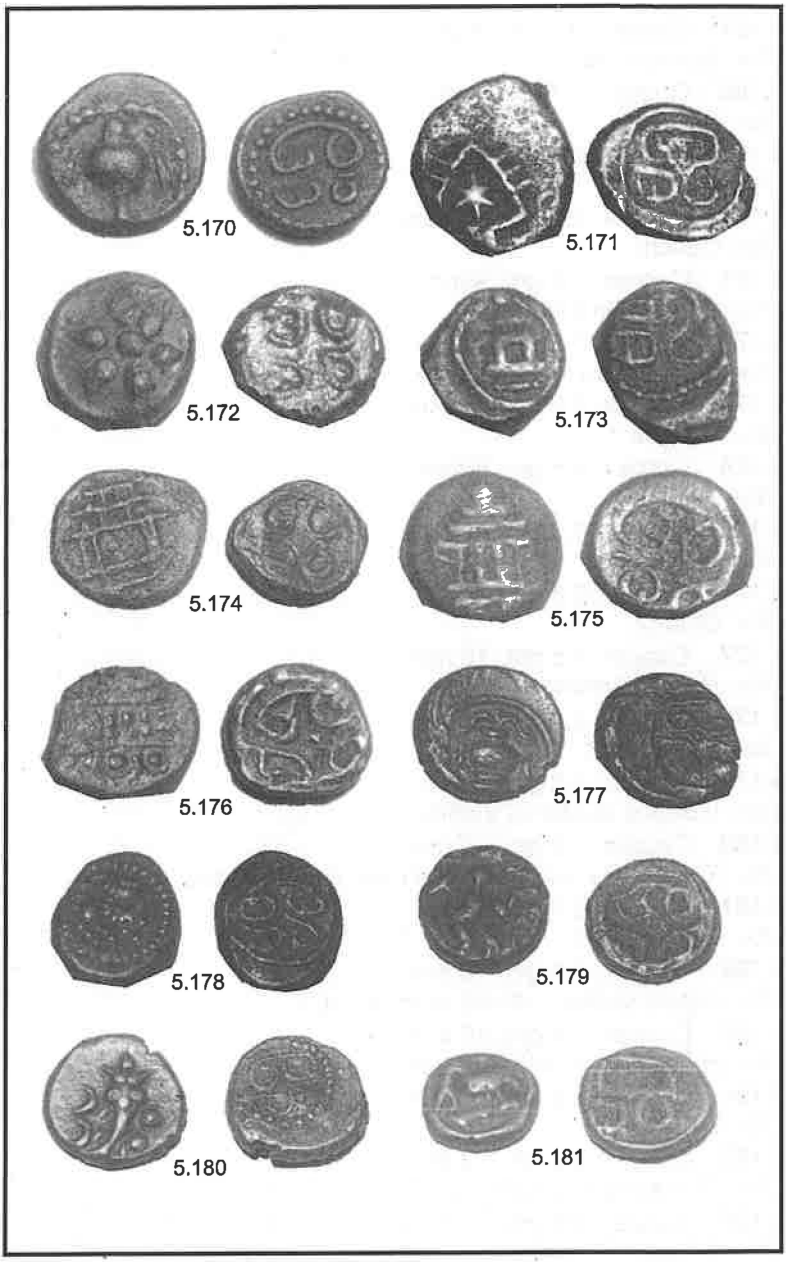
5.182 Copper, 2.3 gm, 13 mm.
Obv. Figure seated with left arm raised.

5.183 Copper, 1.0 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Horse to right with two riders.

5.184 Copper, 2.6 gm, 14 mm.
Obv. Crab.

5.185 Copper, 2.1 gm, 13 mm.
Obv. Rama moving right.

5.186 Copper, 2.3 gm, 13 mm.
Obv. Discus.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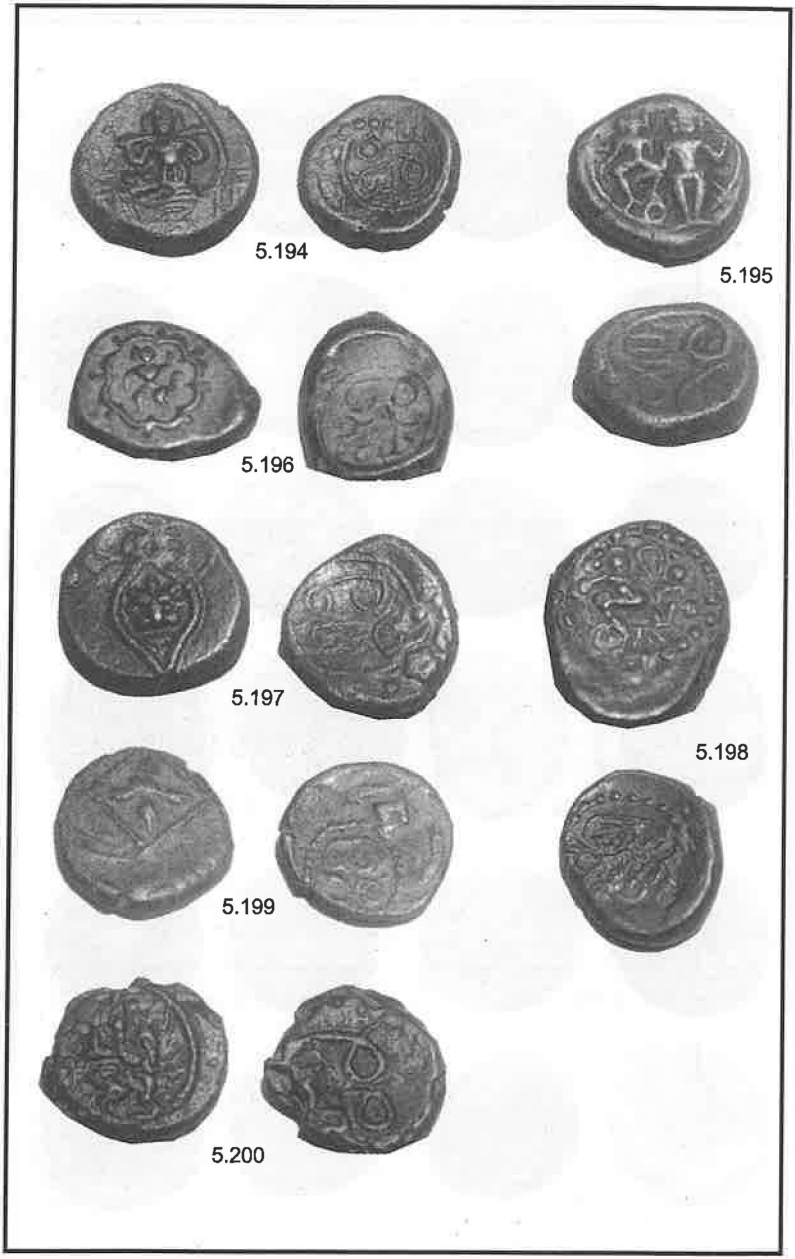

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5.187 Copper, 1.0 gm, 10 mm.
Obv. Man carrying water pots hung on stick in shoulder.
5.188 Copper, 2.0 gm, 14 mm.
Obv. Counter marked on Deity sitting; only traces are visible.
5.189 Copper, 3.3 gm, 16 mm.
Obv. Two deities.
5.190 Copper, 4.3 gm, 15 mm.
Obv. Lakshmi standing.
5.191 Copper, 2.8 gm, 15 mm.
Obv. Narasimha seated within chakram.
5.192 Copper, 2.9 gm, 16 mm.
Obv. Lakshmi and Narasimha.
5.193 Copper, 2.5 gm, 14 mm.
Obv. Narasimha seated.
5.194 Copper, 3.3 gm, 16 mm.
Obv. Muralidhara standing; uncertain object in the left field.
5.195 Copper, 3.2 gm, 14 mm.
Obv. Two deities.
5.196 Copper, 3.2 gm, 14 mm.
Obv. Standing figure in an ornamental framework.
5.197 Copper, 2.6 gm, 14 mm.
Obv. Ganesa stylised in a decorative framework.
5.198 Copper, 3.6 gm, 17 mm.
Obv. Nataraja and Sivakami dancing.
5.199 Copper, 1.5 gm, 15 mm.
Obv. Apsaras.
5.200 Copper, 2.2 gm, 14 mm.
Obv. Ganesa stylised.

Uncertain

5.201 Copper, 2.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Minakshi standing.
Rev. Chakram.
5.202 Copper, 2.6 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Minakshi standing.
Rev. Conch.
5.203 Copper, 2.9 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Sun and crescent; below a cup like object.
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *Kri shna.*

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COINS OF THANJAVUR NAYAKS

The Thanjavur Nayak rule was established during the reign of the Vijayanagar king Achyutaraya in 1532. Chinna Sevappa (1532-1590) was the founder of this dynasty. He was an able *Dalwai* during the days of Krishnadevaraya and had helped Achyutaraya in ascending the throne. He had married Murthiamba the younger sister of Achyutaraya's wife Tirumalamba. The war of Talikota was fought during his period. Sevappa was attracted towards Saivism and notable amongst his effort is the Rajagopuram in Tiruvannamalai temple. Achyutappa Nayak (1562-1614) succeeded him. Achyutappa jointly ruled with his father Sevappa Nayak during 1562 to 1590. Achyutappa made his son Raghunatha Nayak, the virtual ruler in 1600 AD. Govinda Dikshitar was an able minister during his period. Raghunatha Nayak (1600-1630) was an outstanding ruler amongst the Thanjavur Nayaks. He won many battles. Notable among them are the win over Portughese in Ceylon. He is also noted for putting down Jaggaraya the usurper who grabbed power by putting Vijayanagar emperor Sriranga to death. The Nayaks of Madurai and Gingee assisted Jaggaraya. However, Raghunatha with Yachama Nayak won even as the Nayaks of Madurai and Gingee ran for their lives. Raghunatha was a great devotee of Rama. He was a poet and composed many *kavyas*, *prabhandas* in Telugu and Sanskrit. He was also a great musician and invented a Veena known as *Raghunathendra Veena*. Raghunatha's son Ramabadra Nayak was a *yuvaraja* during 1628 to 1630 but died at a young age. Raghunatha's another son Vijayaraghava Nayak ascended the throne during 1631. He ruled till 1673. He was killed in an encounter with the Bijapur and the Ekoji of Marathas. The Thanjavur Nayak's rule came to an end after 140 years of rule.

Coinage

The coins of Thanjavur Nayaks have been known only recently. Mitchiner has listed inscribed and anonymous coins of these rulers. The inscribed coins listed by him fall into two

categories - those which name the Vijayanagar sovereign (Tirumala and Venkata II) fall into the first category. In the second category are those belonging to Raghunatha and Vijayaraghava Nayak. The coins of Raghunatha Nayak listed have three deities on the obverse, with reverse legend Sri / *Raghu* / *natha*. Coins of Vijayaraghava Nayak described have either standing deity or Garuda on the obverse and the Nagari legend *Sri Ra* / *ghava* on the reverse.

Several inscribed coins of the Thanjavur Nayaks have been described here for the first time. These include coins of the first ruler Sevapparaya, Achyutappa Nayak, Raghunatha Nayak and Vijayaraghava Nayak. All these have the Nagari / Telugu legend on them which makes the attribution easy. These coins are found in and around Thanjavur.

Mitchiner has also described several anonymous coins, which according to him can be dated within the period 1614-1674. These are assigned to the Thanjavur Nayaks on the basis of their find spot, fabric, style as well as the theme (Ramayana). To the list of Mitchiner are added quite a sizeable number of anonymous issues which are assigned to the Thanjavur Nayaks based on

- the fabric, style and theme.
- presence of king either alone or with his consort similar to those seen on the sculptures of the rulers.
- presence of Rajagopalaswamy, the deity worshipped by Vijayaraghava Nayak. Inscription of the Thanjavur rulers mention of *Rajagopala Chakram* possibly indicating the copper coins with the deity Rajagopalaswamy on them.
- these coins are observed in and around Thanjavur.

Two coins with the name of the town *Tiruvarur* have come to light. One of them with Tamil legend *Arur* was reported by A. Seetharaman. These coins are assigned to Thanjavur Nayaks as *Tiruvarur* gained importance during their rule.

Coins 6.70 to 6.74 are traditionally attributed to Sivaganga Rajas. These coins are generally found in Thanjavur. The author is of the opinion that these belong to the Thanjavur Nayaks. Coins 6.70 and 6.72 weigh close to 10 gm! Some coins listed under Sivaganga Rajas may also belong to Thanjavur Nayaks. This is specifically discussed later.

Description of Coins

In the name of Venkatapatiraya II (1586-1614)

6.1 Copper, 4.0 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *Ve m ka / ta pa.*

6.2 Copper, 3.7 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Muralidhara playing flute; cows are seen watching.
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *Ve m ka / ta pa.*

6.3 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Dancing Krishna.
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *Ve m ka / ta pa.*

Sevappa Nayak (1532-1590)

6.4 Copper, 3.4 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. In a circle of dots and linear circle, couchant bull to left; in front of the bull a lamp; above crescent and sun.
Rev. In a circle of dots and linear circle, three-line Nagari legend with rules between the lines *Sri / Se va pa / ra ya.*

Achyutappa Nayak (1562-1614)

6.5 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. A combined figure of bull and elephant facing each other.
Rev. Two-line Nagari legend *A chu tha / pa ra ya.*
6.6 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Similar to the previous coin.
Rev. Similar but the legend is only partially seen.

6.7 Copper, 2.4 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Bull to left.
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *A chu / ta.*
6.8 Copper, 2.9 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Bull to left.
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *A chu ta* enclosed in a rectangle.
6.9 Copper, 2.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. God and Goddess ?
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *A chu ta.*

Raghunatha Nayak (1600-1630)

6.10 Copper, 2.5 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Within an ornamental design, standing deity.
Rev. Three-line Tamil legend *Vi / ja ya Ra / gu na (tha).*
6.11 Copper, 2.6 gm, 14 mm, A. Seetharaman (1994).

Obv. Within an ornamental design, Lakshmi seated.
Rev. Three-line Tamil legend *Vi / ja ya Ra / gu na tha.*
6.12 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Siva and Parvati seated.
Rev. Two-line Nagari legend *Ra gu / na tha.*
6.13 Copper, 4.7 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Lakshmi and Narayana seated.
Rev. Two-line Telugu/Kannada legend *Ra gu / na da.*

6.14 Copper, 3.3 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Discus.
Rev. Telugu/Kannada legend *Sri Ra gu na da.*

6.15 Copper, 3.1 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. A dancing figure (?).
Rev. Two-line Tamil legend *Ra gu / na tha.*

6.16 Copper, 2.8 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Gandabherunda.
Rev. Telugu/Kannada legend *Ra gu na da.*

6.17 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Garuda standing facing.
Rev. Telugu/Kannada legend *Ra gu na da.*
6.18 Copper, 2.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. A seated figure (king ?).
Rev. Four-line Tamil legend *Vi chai / ya ra ya / Ra gu na / tha n.*
6.19 Copper, 1.1 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Ganesa.
Rev. Nagari legend (Sri) *Ra gu na da.*
6.20 Copper, 1.6 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Standing Rama, Sita and Lakshmana.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Ra gu na da.*
6.21 Copper, 1.4 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Standing Rama, Sita and Lakshmana.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Ra gu na da.*
6.22 Copper, 1.4 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Standing Rama and Sita.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Ra gu na da.*
6.23 Copper, 2.4 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Horse to right
Rev. Legend *Sri Ra gu na da.*
6.24 Copper, 0.9 gm, 8 mm.

Obv. Flag on a pole flanked by sun and moon.
Rev. Nagari legend *Ra gu na da.*

Vijayaraghava Nayak (1631-1673)

6.25 Copper, 2.1 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of Rajagopalaswamy.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Vi ja ya ra ga va.*
6.26 Copper, 1.4 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Garuda.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Ra / ga va.*
6.27 Copper, 1.4 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Gandabherunda.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Ra ga va.*
6.28 Copper, 2.4 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Gajalakshmi.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Ra ga va.*
6.29 Copper, 1.5 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Ra ga va.*
6.30 Copper, 1.3 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Figure with its left arm raised.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Ra ga va.*
6.31 Copper, 0.8 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Crude Nagari legend *Sri Ra ga va.*
6.32 Copper, 6.0 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Twin hills as on the coins of Tiruvannamalai.
Rev. Within a linear and dotted circles, Telugu/Kannada legend around a spherical object *Vi ja ya ra ga va.*

In the name of Tiruvarur

6.33 Copper, 2.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Tamil legend *Ti ru.*
Rev. Tamil legend *va ru / r.*
6.34 Copper, 3.2 gm, 13 mm, A. Seetharaman (1999).

Obv. Sivalinga; below Tamil legend *Aa ru r.*
Rev. Hanuman.

Anonymous coins

6.35 Copper, 0.7 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Ganesa.
Rev. King standing.

6.36 Copper, 3.5 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Rama, Sita and Hanuman.
Rev. King standing with folded hands.

6.37 Copper, 3.4 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Rama, and Hanuman.
Rev. King standing with folded hands.

6.38 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.
Obv. Rama standing.
Rev. King standing with folded hands.

The king in the above four coins may be identified as Raghunatha Nayak.

6.39 Copper, 2.5 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. King with consorts.
Rev. Lamp flanked by discus and conch.

6.40 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Rama and Sita standing facing.
Rev. A standing figure. A big conch in the left field.
6.41 Copper, 3.2 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. A seated figure possibly of the king.
Rev. Vaishnavite mark flanked by conch and discus.
6.42 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Rajagopalaswamy standing facing.
Rev. King (Vijayaraghava Nayak) standing with folded hands facing.
6.43 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Rajagopalaswamy standing facing.
Rev. King (Vijayaraghava Nayak) seated on a throne.

6.44 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm, A. Seetharaman (1998).

Obv. Rajagopalaswamy standing facing.
Rev. King (Vijayaraghava Nayak) with his wife seated on a throne.

6.45 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm, A. Seetharaman (1998).

Obv. Hanuman carrying Rama.
Rev. Discus.
Attributed to Raghunatha Nayak.

6.46 Copper, 2.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Garuda in *virasana* pose.
Rev. King seated on a throne.

6.47 Copper, 2.4 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Discus.
Rev. Yoga Narasimha.
6.48 Copper, 2.9 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Garuda to right.
Rev. Vaishnavite mark flanked by discus and conch.
6.49 Copper, 3.2 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Hanuman to right.
Rev. Tree.
6.50 Copper, 3.3 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Figure with bow to right.
Rev. Eight petalled lotus.
6.51 Copper, 1.8 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Figure with half human and half lion to left.
Rev. Rajagopalaswamy.
6.52 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Dancing figure.
Rev. Seated Lakshmi.
6.53 Copper, 2.7 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Dancing Krishna.
Rev. Hanuman to left.
6.54 Copper, 2.8 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Hanuman to left.
Rev. Standing Garuda.
6.55 Copper, 2.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Two figures (Rama and Sita ?).
Rev. Standing figure of king.
6.56 Copper, 2.8 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Rajagopalaswamy standing facing.
Rev. Conch.
6.57 Copper, 0.9 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of Muralidhara.
Rev. King standing facing.
6.58 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. King and queen on elephant.
Rev. Standing figure.
6.59 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Hanuman to right.
Rev. Garuda standing facing.
6.60 Copper, 2.0 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. An animal to right.
Rev. Standing figure of king.
6.61 Copper, 5.1 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Discus.
Rev. Dagger.
6.62 Copper, 2.6 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Three arched hill.
Rev. Dagger flanked by conch and discus.

6.63 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Peacock to left.
Rev. Dagger flanked by sun and moon.

6.64 Copper, 2.7 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Eight petalled lotus.
Rev. Dagger flanked by discus and conch.

6.65 Copper, 1.3 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Dancing Krishna.
Rev. Discus.

6.66 Copper, 1.5 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Bull to right.

Rev. Vaishnavite mark flanked by conch and discus.
6.67 Copper, 3.3 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Lion to left.
Rev. Gandabherunda.
6.68 Copper, 2.9 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Gandabherunda.
Rev. Four square.
6.69 Copper, 0.4 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Stylised Gandabherunda.
Rev. Figure seated over a fish.
6.70 Copper, 9.7 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Rama and Sita.
Rev. Sivalinga with garland.
6.71 Copper, 3.3 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Rama and Sita.
Rev. Sivalinga with garland.
6.72 Copper, 10.0 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Sivalinga; below couchant bull.
6.73 Copper, 3.3 gm, 13 mm.
Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Sivalinga; below couchant bull.
6.74 Copper, 3.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Standing Vishnu stylised.
Rev. Sivalinga; below couchant bull.
6.75 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Fish.
Rev. Eight petalled lotus.
6.76 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Deer looking back.
Rev. Lotus.
6.77 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Animal looking back.
Rev. Lotus.
6.78 Copper, 2.4 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Ankusa flanked by sun and moon.

Rev. Lotus.
6.79 Copper, 1.7 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Battle axe.
Rev. Battle axe.
6.80 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Hanuman to right.
Rev. Vaishnavite symbol flanked by conch and discus.
6.81 Copper, 1.2 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Matsya avatar of Vishnu.
Rev. King (?) seated.
6.82 Copper, 2.7 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Tortoise.
Rev. Fish.

6.83 Copper, 1.1 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Figure with lion body to left.
Rev. Conch and discus.

6.84 Copper, 2.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Horse left.
Rev. Discus.

6.85 Copper, 1.5 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Chariot.
Rev. Seated king.

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2. A. Seetharaman, *Thanjai Nayakkar Kasugal*, Madras Coin Society, Special bulletin Vol. V, 1998, pp. 30-31.
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7

COINS OF GINGEE NAYAKS

Surappa Nayak (1544-1567) of Gingee was contemporary of Ramaraya the defacto ruler for Sadasivaraya and might have taken part in the battle of Talikota in 1565. His successor Krishnappa Nayak I (1567-1578) was the contemporary of both Tirumalaraya and his successor Sriranga I. He was a loyal feudatory of both the kings. Kondamma Nayak (1580-1593) was the son of Krishnappa Nayak I. He is mentioned in the inscriptions during the period of Sriranga I and Venkata I and hence should have been the successor of Krishnappa I. His son Krishnappa Nayak II succeeded him in 1594. Plenty of information is available from the letters of Nicholas Pimento who came to Chidambaram and then to Gingee in 1599. He mentions that the Gingee fort was one of the strongest and richest forts bigger than many forts in Portugal except Lisbon. He also mentions that there were subordinate chiefs subject to the authority of Krishnappa Nayak and they were the kings of Tiruvadigai and Salavacha. Besides these two, the Nayak of Vellore, Lingamma was also the subject of Krishnappa. One of the Jesuit letters of 1606 states that among the three Nayaks of the Tamil country, the Gingee was the most powerful. Although Krishnappa initially accepted the overlordship of Venkata, the Vijayanagar ruler, he seemed to have revolted later which forced Venkata to send an army against him. Krishnappa was captured prisoner but was released by the influence of Raghunatha Nayak of Thanjavur. In reciprocation, Krishnappa gave his daughter in marriage to Raghunatha Nayak. Muthu Venkatappa Nayaka, the grandson of Krishnappa II, was loyal feudatory of Vijayanagar empire.

Gingee was occupied by Muhammad Adil Shah, the Bijapur Sultan, in 1655.

Coinage

Copper coins of Krishnappa Nayak II were published by K. Ganesh and Girijapathy. A copper coin with Tamil legend *Kittinappa Nayakkar* is attributed to the same ruler by A.

Seetharaman. Coins with Telugu and Tamil legend *Venkatapa* were published by A. Seetharaman and K. Ganesh. These are assigned to Venkatappa Nayak. Five new coin types bearing the name of Venkatapa have been observed for the first time. Two anonymous coins are attributed to the Gingee Nayak rulers by Mitchiner.

Description of Coins

Krishnappa Nayak II

7.1 Copper, 2.1 gm, 15 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. In a linear circle, a saint seated in *padmasana* with folded hands.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*
7.2 Copper, 3.1 gm, 14 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Back view of Gandabherunda flying upwards.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*
7.3 Copper, 2.9 gm, 14 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Hanuman moving to right.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*
7.4 Copper, 3.3 gm, 14 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Garuda in *virasana* pose to right.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*
7.5 Copper, 3.0 gm, 15 mm, K. Ganesh and Girijapathy.

Obv. Lakshmi seated on a swan.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*
7.6 Copper, 3.1 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Lakshmi seated.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*
7.7 Copper, 2.2 gm, 15 mm, K. Ganesh.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, a lady seated with a mirror(?) on her hand; her face turned to her left.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*
7.8 Copper, 2.5 gm, 16 mm, K. Ganesh.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, a peacock to left.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*
7.9 Copper, 2.0 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Peacock to right.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*
7.10 Copper, 2.6 gm, 16 mm, K. Ganesh.
Copper, 1.9 gm, 13 mm, K. Ganesh.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, half-human, half-lion figure to left.
Rev. Kannada legend *Krishnappa.*

7.11 Copper, 3.4 gm, 11 mm, A. Seetharaman (1994).

Obv. Bull left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Kittinappa Nayakkar.*

Muthu Venkatappa Nayak

7.12 Copper, 1.9 gm, 14 mm, K. Ganesh.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, a bull to left.
Rev. In a circle of dots, two-line mixed legend in Kannada, Nagari and Tamil; rule in between the line *Ve(n) ka / ta pa.*

7.13 Copper, 1.9 gm, 14 mm, A. Seetharaman.

Obv. Within a circle of dots, standing Vishnu.
Rev. In a circle of dots, two-line mixed legend in Kannada, Nagari and Tamil; rule in between the line *Ve(n) ka / ta pa.*

7.14 Copper, 5.4 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Three-line Kannada/Telugu legend *Ve m ka / ta pa na / ya ka (ru).*

7.15 Copper, 4.8 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Lakshmi and Narayana seated facing.
Rev. Three-line Kannada/Telugu legend *Ve m ka / ta pa na / ya ka (ru).*

7.16 Copper, 3.9 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *Ve (m) ka / ta pa.*

7.17 Copper, 4.5 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Dagger flanked by sun and crescent.
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *Sri Ve m / ka ta pa.*

7.18 Copper, 4.7 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Dagger flanked by sun and crescent.
Rev. Kannada/Telugu legend *Sri / Ve m ka.*

Anonymous Issues

7.19 Copper, 3.4 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Hanuman right.
Rev. Conch and discus; crescent between.

7.20 Copper, 3.0 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Seated figure.
Rev. Conch and discus; crescent between.

References:

1. K. Ganesh and Girijapathy, *Karnataka Numismatic Studies*, 1999, p. 61-65.
2. K. Ganesh, *Unpublished Coins of Nayaks of Gingee*, Madras Coin Society, Special Bulletin, Vol. VI, 1999, p. 18-19.
3. Michael Mitchiner, *The Coinage and History of Southern India*, Vol. II, 1998.
4. A. Seetharaman, *Tamilagath Tholial Sanrugal* (Tamil), 1994.
4. A. Seetharaman, *Senji Nayakkar Kasugal* (Tamil), Madras Coin Society, Special Bulletin Vol. IV, pp. 13-14, 1997.

8

COINS OF THE BANAS

The Banas started their political power in the fourth century AD in Kolar and Kurnool districts and played a considerable part in the political history of south India till about sixteenth century. However during the entire period they were never an independent political power. Originally emerging as feudatories of Kadambas of Banavasi, they changed their political allegiance as often as required. They swore allegiance to the Chalukyas of Vatapi, the Rashtrakutas of Malkhed and the Pallavas of Kanchi till they were partially wiped out as a political power by the Chola king Parantaka (907-953). Prior to their defeat, the Banas occupied the western part of Chittoor and north western part of North Arcot districts which is usually referred to as *Perumbanappadi* [1].

Nandivarman (770-795) was the founder of the line of kings that ruled over *Perumbanappadi.* This was the time when Banas were feudatories of the Pallavas and on account of this fact the king bore the name of the Pallava Nandivarman, as often seen in south Indian history. Nandivarman was succeeded by Vijayaditya I (795-835), Jagadekamalla (835-850) and Vikramaditya I (850-895). Vikramaditya I had a long reign of about 45 years and also bore titles *Vana Vidyadharan* and *Vana Kandarppan* [2]. He was the feudatory of the two Pallava kings Nandivarman III (844-866) and Nrpatungavarman (866-885). He had successes over the Nolambas and Gangas. It is not clear whether Vikramaditya I declared independence as the Pallava power was in the last years even during his closing period. However his son Vijayaditya II (895-910) declared independence. Vikramaditya II who succeeded Vijayaditya ruled only for short time and was defeated by the Chola king Parantaka.

After the defeat, the Banas seemed to have dispersed into two branches and one branch appears to have accepted the overlordship of the Cholas and served them. With the decline of Chola power, and the revival of Pandyan Empire, the Banas switched their allegiance to the Pandyas and settled down in the areas around Trichy and Madurai. During this time, their capital was Tiruvallam also known as *Vanapuram.* In the early years of

Vijayanagar, the Banas became their feudatories but with the Madurai Nayaks becoming powerful, they were reduced to the position of petty vessels. Except for the *Perumbanappadi* line of Banas, the history of the Banas seems to be shrouded with obscurity as not much is known about all their rulers.

Coinage

A gold coin of the Perumbanappadi rulers was recently reported [3]. Vikramaditya I issued this during the ninth century. Coins found in the Madurai region with Garuda on the obverse and the Tamil legend *Samarakolakalan* or *Buvanekaviran* on the reverse were initially attributed to the Pandyas [4]. However, Nagaswamy correctly attributed these coins to the Banas who ruled around Madurai during 14th–16th centuries AD [5].

Nagaswamy further states that from the inscriptions, the Banas had the titles *Samarakolakalan*, *Bhuvanekaviran*, *Sethumula Raksha durandaran*, *Madhurapuri mahanayakan*, *Pandyakulantakan*, *Rajakula sarpa garudan*, and *Garudaketanan*. The title *Madhurapuri mahanayakan* shows their conquest over Pandyas. This is indicated by Garuda sitting over fish in one of their coins. The title *Rajakulasarpa Garudan* indicates that they were Garuda to the snake of Rajakula. The Garuda is shown holding a snake in its arm in their coins.

Coin 8.3, may have been the initial coinage of the Banas of Madurai. This has two fishes separated by a sceptre on one side similar to those observed on the Pandyan coins. The reverse side has a Garuda, indicating this to be an issue of Banas. Nagaswamy opines that these coins may have been issued during the time when Banas were feudatories of Pandyas.

Description of Coins

8.1 Gold, 0.25 gm, 6 mm, K. Ganesh et al.

Obv. A bull to left with a lamp in front; above Tamil numeral 4 -.
Rev. In a circle of dots; three-line Tamil legend *Va na / Vi la sa / di ra n.*

The legend is of ninth/tenth century characters. The exact numeral on the obverse cannot be made out but the numeral is definitely between 41 and 49. The attribution of the coin to the Banas is not difficult. The legend *Vana Vilasadiran* suggests that the issuer were Banas as the legend *Vana* is the Tamil equivalent of the Bana. We have the places *Vanagoppadi* and *Vanapuram* known after the Banas. Although epigraphical evidence is not available for the name/title *Vilasadiran,* in all likelihood the coin may have been issued by Vikramaditya I, who was a powerful ruler. It is not clear whether he issued the coin as a feudatory of Pallavas or as an independent ruler. The obverse device (Bull) suggests Pallava influence. Also, if the numeral on the obverse is taken as the regnal year, he is the only ruler to whom this coin can be attributed as he reigned for about 45 years.

8.2 Gold, 0.3 gm, 6 mm.

Obv. Garuda running to right.
Rev. Lion represented by pellets; above large crescent - as seen on the *Viraraya* fanams.

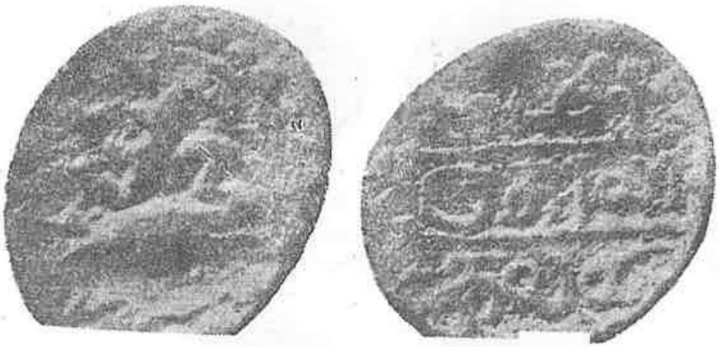
8.3 Copper, 3.1 gm, 15 mm; R. Nagaswamy, Mitchiner.

Obv. Garuda running right; conch and discus on either side.
Rev. Two fishes separated by a sceptre.

8.4 Copper, 3.1 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Similar to the previous coin.
Rev. Similar to the previous coin.
8.5 Copper, 2.8 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Garuda running left.
Rev. Object appearing as an elephant.
8.6 Copper, 3.0 gm, 15 mm, R. Nagaswamy.



Obv. Garuda seated on a fish.
Rev. Three-line Tamil legend *Sa ma ra / ko la / ka la n.*

8.7 Copper, 3.2 gm, 16 mm, R. Nagaswamy, Mitchiner.

Obv. Garuda running left holding a serpent on right hand flanked by conch and discus.
Rev. Three-line Tamil legend *Sa ma ra / ko la / ka la n.*

8.8 Copper, 2.6 gm, 14 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Garuda running left holding a serpent on right hand flanked by conch and discus.
Rev. Three-line Tamil legend *Sa ma ra / ko la / ka la n.*

8.9 Copper, 3.1 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Garuda running right flanked by big conch and discus.
Rev. Three-line Tamil legend *Sa ma ra / ko la / ka la n.*

8.10 Copper, 3.3 gm, 14 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Garuda running right holding a serpent flanked by conch and discus.
Rev. Three-line Tamil legend *Sa ma ra / ko la / ka la n.*
8.11 Copper, 2.8 gm, 15 mm, R. Nagaswamy; Mitchiner.

Obv. Garuda moving right; above a beautiful umbrella; conch and discus on either side.
Rev. Three-line Tamil legend *Bhu va / ne ka / vi ra n.*
8.12 Copper, 3.4 gm, 14 mm, R. Nagaswamy.

Obv. Garuda moving to right holding serpent; conch and discus on either side.
Rev. Three-line Tamil legend *Bhu va / ne ka / vi ra n.*

References:

1. T.V. Mahalingam, *The Banas in South Indian History*, Sankara-Parvathi Endowment Lectures, 1950-51.
2. *Tamil Nattu Varalaru* (Tamil), Tamil Valarchi Iyakkam, Chennai, 1990.
3. K. Ganesh, Girijapathy and S. Rajavelu, *A Gold Coin of Banas*, Paper presented at the XIII conference of the South Indian Numismatic Society.
4. T. Desikachari, *South Indian Coins*, 1933.
5. R. Nagaswamy, *Tamil Coins*, Tamilnadu State Department of Archaeology, 1981, pp.160-162.
6. Michael Mitchiner, *The Coinage and History of Southern India*, Vol. II, pp.178-179.

COINS OF SETHUPATIS

Sadaika Deva Udaiyan Sethupati (1605-1623), was made in charge of the *Marava* country by the Madurai Nayak, Muthu Krishnappa. He was succeeded by Kuttan Sethupati in 1624. Kuttan ruled till 1635 and was succeeded by his son Sadaika Deva II (Dalavai Sethupati). His opponent was Tambi who was supported by Tirumala Nayak of Madurai. Sadaika II was defeated by Tirumala and Tambi installed in his place. However due to the demand from his subjects, Sadaika II was reinstated in 1641. Tirumalai Sethupati (1641-1674) was exempted from paying tribute and highly honoured by Tirumala Nayak. He won against Chokkanatha Nayak of Madurai. Kilavan Sethupati helped in freeing Chokkanatha Nayak of Madurai from tyranny of Rustum Khan. The power of Kilavan, was gradually growing as Muthu Virappa of Madurai couldn't curb him. Kilavan ruled from 1674 to 1710. Vijayaraghunatha Sethupati (1710-1720) who succeeded Kilavan, had trouble with Bhavani Sankara, the illegitimate son of Kilavan Sethupati. Tandadeva succeeded Vijayaraghunatha but was killed by Bhavani Sankara and the Thanjavur Maratha army. Bhavani Sankara was made the ruler. After the fall of Bhavani Sankara in 1729 against the Thanjavur Marathas, the Sethupati kingdom was divided between Thanjavur Marathas and Sivaganga. However they still remained a significant power repeatedly expelling the Nawabs of Arcot intrusions. However in 1764, they acknowledged the suzerainty to Muhammad Ali. The lands passed on to the East India Company in 1792.

Coinage

Udaya Dalavai Sethupati and Sadaika Deva II have issued coins in their names. The most common type of coins are those that carry figure of deities on the obverse and the Tamil legend *Sethupati* on the reverse. These were probably issued by Sadaika II and his successors. The coins are mainly found in Madurai. They are occasionally found as far north as Thanjavur and as far south as Tuticorin [1].

Description of Coins

Udaya Dalavai Sethupati (1605-1623)

9.1 Copper, 3.4 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Bull to left; above deity.
Rev. Tamil legend *Sri Vu da ya da la va...*
9.2 Copper, 3.4 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Bull; above Sivalinga.
Rev. Tamil legend *Vu da ya de (la) va...*
9.3 Copper, 3.3 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Bull to right; above Sivalinga.
Rev. Tamil legend *Sri Vu da ya de ...*

Sadaika Deva II alias Dalavai Sethupati (1635-1641)

9.4 Copper, 1.4 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Peacock right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ra - / da la / va y.*
9.5 Copper, 2.0 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Peacock to left; above three dots.
Rev. Tamil legend enclosed within a square *Ra - / da la / va y.*
9.6 Copper, 1.7 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Peacock to right.
Rev. Tamil legend enclosed within a square *Ra - / da la / va y.*
9.7 Copper, 1.4 gm, 14 mm, A. Seetharaman.

Obv. Peacock to left; above some marks.
Rev. Tamil legend enclosed within a square *Ra - / da la / va y.*
9.8 Copper, 1.9 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Lion to left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Da la va y.*

In the name of Sethupati

9.9 Copper, 3.3 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Deity on peacock moving to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*
9.10 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Six headed Shanmuga on peacock holding a snake in its beak to left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*

9.11 Copper, 3.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Deity on peacock moving to left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*

9.12 Copper, 3.4 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Siva seated on bull.
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*

9.13 Copper, 2.8 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Deity on peacock moving to right; legend Sethupati is seen on obverse (counter struck).
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*

9.14 Copper, 3.3 gm, 18 x 10 mm.

Obv. Deity on peacock.
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*
9.15 Copper, 3.4 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Deity on bull to left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*
9.16 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Ganesa seated facing.
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*
9.17 Copper, 3.4 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Ganesa seated facing.
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*
9.18 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Scorpion.
Rev. Tamil legend *Se thu pa ti.*

References:

1. Michael Mitchiner, *The Coinage and History of Southern India*, Part Two, 1998.
2. A. Seetharaman, *Ramanathapuram Dalavai Sethupati Kasu* (Tamil), Madras Coin Society, Special Bulletin VI, 1999, p. 17.

COINS OF THANJAVUR MARATHAS

The Marathas occupied Thanjavur in 1674, when Venkoji alias Ekoji, the brother of Shivaji, while being employed as ruler of Bijapur, was sent to Thanjavur to conquer Vijayaraghava Nayak. However although conquered, Thanjavur was paying tribute to Aurangzeb from 1691. Thanjavur was handed over to Nawab of Arcot in 1773 after East India Company captured it. It was restored to the Maratha king in 1776. Hyder Ali occupied much of the state but in 1799, after the fall of Tipu Sultan, the reign passed on again to the Marathas. The Marathas ruled till 1855. The state passed on to the British after the last ruler Raja Sivaji died without an issue. The rulers of this state were – Venkoji alias Ekoji (1674-1686), Shahji I (1687-1711), Saraboji I (1711-1727), Tukhoji (1728-1735), Baba Sahib (1735-1736), Sujana Bai (1736-1738), Sidduji (1738), Sayaji (1738-1739), Pratap Singh (1740-1749), Sayaji (1749-1763), Tulsaji (1763-1787), Amar Singh (1787-1798), Sarabhoji II (1798-1824), Sivaji (1824-1855) [1].

Coinage

According to KK Maheshwari and Wiggins, the Thanjavur Marathas may have issued the *hun* or *pagoda*. They list the following gold coins in White collection sold in Amsterdam in 1905 which are described in the catalogue to be issues of Rajas of Thanjavur.

- Obv. Siva and Parvati Rev. Sivalinga
- Obv. An armed figure Rev. A bull sitting right with a lingam below

While the details of weight are not known, going by the description, the above coins may also be the issues of Thanjavur Nayaks.

The fanam listed here with dagger on the reverse is possibly the *Ariyalur fanam* described by Prinsep. The fanam with Nagari *Ve* can be ascribed to Venkoji. The Nagari *Mu* on one of the

fanams could stand for Mudra; copper coins bearing legend *Mudra/Maharaj* are known.

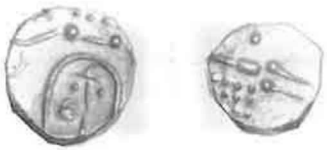
Varieties of copper coins have been issued by the rulers. The modified *Sivarai* or *Chatrapati* paisas were in vogue. The heavier coins of *Sivarai* paisas listed under Gingee Marathas may also be the issues of Thanjavur Maratha rulers. Other types bear the Nagari legend *Maharaj* on the reverse. Some times the legend is corrupt. Several obverse devices have been noticed. The coins listed here also have the Tamil legend *Magarasu* equivalent of *Maharaj* on the reverse. Several of these types are listed for the first time. The copper coin with legend *Sharabraj* may refer to Sharboji I or Sharaboji II. A copper coin with Nagari legend *Thanjavur* is also assigned to these rulers based on the similarity in fabric and the paleography of the legend with other known coins.

Description of Coins

10.1 Gold, 0.35 gm, 7 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.

Obv. Stylised lion (?) with pellets as in Viraraya fanams.
Rev. Dagger.

10.2 Gold, 0.35 gm, 7 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.



Obv. Part of the stylised lion (?), inside large crescent Nagari letter *Ve.*
Rev. Stylised boar as in *Viraraya* fanams.

10.3 Gold, 0.35 gm, 7 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.
Obv. Nagari letter *Mu.*
Rev. Floral design (?).

10.4 Silver, 3.3 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Deity standing ?
Rev. Two-line Nagari legend *Sri .../ Ma ha de v.*

10.5 Copper, 1.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Nagari legend *Cha tra pa ti.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Si va.*

10.6 Copper, 3.5 gm, 13 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.

Obv. Nagari legend *Cha tra / pa ti.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Si va.*

10.7 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Nagari legend *Cha tra / pa ti.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Si va.*

10.8 Copper, 3.3 gm, 13 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.

Obv. Nagari legend *Cha tra pa ti.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Si va.*

10.9 Copper, 1.3 gm, 11 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.

Obv. Couchant bull to right.
Rev. Nagari legend *Cha tra / pa ti.*

10.10 Copper, 3.1 gm, 15 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.

Obv. Nagari legend *Ma ha / ra j.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Ma ha / de v.*

10.11 Copper, 3.4 gm, 15 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.

Obv. Nagari legend *Mu dra.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Ma ha / ra j.*

10.12 Copper, 3.2 gm, 13 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.

Obv. Lakshmi seated.
Rev. Nagari legend *Ma ha / ra j.*

10.13 Copper, 3.1 gm, 12 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.

Obv. Elephant to left; above crescent.
Rev. Nagari legend *Ma ha / ra j.*

10.14 Copper, 2.5 gm, 14 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins.

Obv. Siva and Parvati seated facing.
Rev. Nagari legend *Ma ha / ra* j.

10.15 Copper, 3.1 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Couchant bull to left.
Rev. Nagari legend *Ma ha / ra j.*
10.16 Copper, 3.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Sivalinga; Nagari legend – each letter on the four sides *Ma ha de v.*
Rev. Couchant bull to right; Nagari legend – each letter on the four sides *Ma ha ra j.*
10.17 Copper, 3.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Sivalinga; Nagari legend on either side *Ma ha de v.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Ma ha ra j.*
10.18 Copper, 3.3 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Seated Ganesa facing.
Rev. Nagari legend *Ma ha ra j.*
10.19 Copper, 9.8 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Nagari legend *Sha ra b / ra j.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Na va / de va pa* (?).
10.20 Copper, 1.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Nagari legend *Sa va Ma / ha ra j.*
Crescent and sun below.
Rev. Same as obverse.
10.21 Copper, 1.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Nagari legend *Sa va Ma / ha ra j.*
Crescent and sun below.
Rev. Nagari legend *Ha ri* (?) / *Ma ha ra j / Ma ha ra j* (?)
10.22 Copper, 2.8 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Lion to right.
Rev. Nagari legend *Tha nja / vu r.*
10.23 Copper, 1.5 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Hanuman to right.
Rev. Nagari legend *Si va.*
10.24 Copper, 1.9 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Narasimha.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / ga / ra su.*
10.25 Copper, 2.6 gm, 15 mm, A. Seetharaman.

Obv. Ravana standing facing.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / ga / ra su.*
10.26 Copper, 2.5 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Conch like object.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / ga / ra su.*
10.27 Copper, 2.3 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Plant with leaves (?).
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / ga / ra su.*
10.28 Copper, 2.6 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Scorpion.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / ga / ra su.*
10.29 Copper, 2.2 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Standing figure (king ?).
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / ga / ra su.*
10.30 Copper, 2.6 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Two snakes intertwined facing each other.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / ga / ra su.*
10.31 Copper, 2.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. A fish enclosed in a triangle.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / ga / ra su.*
10.32 Copper, 2.5 gm, 13 mm, A. Seetharaman.
Obv. Sivalinga.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ra / Ma ga / ra su.*
10.33 Copper, 1.0 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Tamil legend *Ka rai ka l.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Ma ha / ra j.*

References:

1. K. K. Maheshwari and Kenneth W. Wiggins, *Marathas Mints and Coinage*, IIRNS, 1989, pp. 182-187.
2. Michael Mitchiner, *The Coinage and History of Southern India*, Part Two, 1998, pp. 204-207.
3. Prinsep J, *Essays on Indian Antiquities and Useful Tables*, 1858.
4. A. Seetharaman, *Thanjai Maratiar Kasugal*, Madras Coin Society, Special Bulletin, Vol. V, 1998, pp. 32-33.

11

COINS OF GINGEE MARATHAS

The Marathas occupied Gingee from Adil Shahis in 1676 and later Thanjavur from the Thanjavur Nayaks. The Maratha rulers at Gingee were Hari Raja (1680-1690) and Raja Ram (1690-1698). Gingee was taken over by the Mughals in 1698.

Coinage

The Gingee Marathas issued gold fanams, which is characterised by the presence of the legend *Ramarao*. These were in all likelihood issued by Rajaram. The copper coins described here are characterised by the presence of a dagger and Nagari legend *Rama / Rama* on the reverse. The legends are generally out of flan. The legend has been read as *Rama / raya* by Mitchiner and these coins are attributed to Ramaraya, the defacto ruler during the rule of Vijayanagar king Sadasivaraya. However the author has inspected several coins and has not encountered the legend *raya* in any of the coins. In the types shown, the legend that is always visible is *Rama* suggesting that the legend should have been *Rama / Rama*. Also typologically the coins under consideration appear to be later issues and hence these have been attributed to the Gingee Marathas because of the presence of legend *Rama / Rama* (possibly issue of Rajaram) and since the coins are found in areas which were in the dominion of the rule of Gingee Marathas.

The *Sivarai* kasus were also in circulation. Some of the *Sivarai* kasus listed here may belong to the Thanjavur Marathas.

Description of Coins

Fanams

11.1 Gold, 0.34 gm, 8 mm, KK Maheshwari and Wiggins, Mitchiner.

Obv. Stylised half figure (Kali ?).
Rev. Nagari legend *Ra ma / ra u.*
11.2 Gold, 0.3 gm, 7 mm.

Obv. Stylised half figure (Kali ?).
Rev. Corrupt Nagari legend *Ra ma / ra u.*

Sivarai Kasus

11.3 Copper, 10.1 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Nagari legend *Cha tra / pa ti.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / (Siva)*; a star after *Sri.*
11.4 Copper, 11.0 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Nagari legend *Cha tra / pa ti*; above twin peaked hill.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Si va.*
11.5 Copper, 9.9 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Nagari legend *Cha tra / pa ti.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / (Siva).*
11.6 Copper, 11.3 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Nagari legend *Cha tra / pa ti.*
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri / Ra ja / Si va.*

Uncertain

11.7 Copper, 7.4 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Uncertain.
Rev. Nagari legend *Si va.*

Coins with Nagari legend Rama / Rama on the reverse

The coins that follow have the dagger flanked by Nagari legend *Rama / Rama* on the reverse. In most cases the legends

are out of flan.

11.8 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Ganesa.

11.9 Copper, 2.6 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Ganesa.

11.10 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Lakshmi and Narayana.

11.11 Copper, 1.5 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. A figure to right holding conch (?) on the right hand and a bow (?) on the left hand.

11.12 Copper, 2.0 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Standing figure; crescent on the left field.

11.13 Copper, 2.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Garuda in *virasana* to left.

11.14 Copper, 3.2 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Garuda in *virasana* to left.

11.15 Copper, 2.0 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Discus.

11.16 Copper, 1.9 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Conch.

11.17 Copper, 1.5 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Conch.

11.18 Copper, 1.8 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Vaishnavite mark flanked by conch and discus.

11.19 Copper, 2.0 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Chariot.

11.20 Copper, 3.2 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Bull to left.

11.21 Copper, 2.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bull to left.

11.22 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Gandabherunda.

11.23 Copper, 1.7 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Gandabherunda.

11.24 Copper, 2.2 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Horse to left; crescent above.

11.25 Copper, 2.1 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Horse to right.

11.26 Copper, 2.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Yali to left.

11.27 Copper, 2.2 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Two animals facing each other (bull and elephant).

11.28 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Two animals facing each other (bull and elephant).

11.29 Copper, 3.4 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Figure with human face and lion body to left.

11.30 Copper, 2.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Yali (?) to left.

11.31 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Peacock looking back right.

11.32 Copper, 3.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Peacock looking back left.

11.33 Copper, 1.7 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Ganesa with lion body.

11.34 Copper, 1.4 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Figure resembling couchant bull left.

11.35 Copper, 2.4 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Uncertain.

11.36 Copper, 1.9 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Boar to left.

11.37 Copper, 1.7 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Standing figure.

11.38 Copper, 2.6 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Half swan Saraswati.

11.39 Copper, 2.7 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Fish.

11.40 Copper, 2.3 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Elephant to left; above sun and moon.

11.41 Copper, 2.9 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Couchant bull to left; a dagger in front.

11.42 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Masted ship.

11.43 Copper, 2.1 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Crab.

11.44 Copper, 2.7 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Durga on lion right.

11.45 Copper, 2.3 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Rama *pattabhisheka.*

11.46 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Flag on pole flanked by sun and moon.

References:

1. Michael Mitchiner, *The Coinage and History of Southern India*, Part Two, 1998.
2. K. K. Maheshwari and Kenneth W. Wiggins, *Marathas Mints and Coinage*, IIRNS, 1989.

12

COINS OF SIVAGANGA RAJAS

Sivaganga was initially under the control of Sethupatis. However, Madurai Tirumala Nayak established a line as feudatory at Sivaganga in 1646. In 1729, the Sethupatis were defeated by the Thanjavur Marathas and Sivaganga received substantial share of the Sethupati kingdom for their support. The Sivaganga rulers gave tough encounter to the Nawabs of Arcot attack during 1736 to 1764 but acknowledged the suzerainty of Muhammad Ali in 1764. The kingdom passed on to the East India Company in 1801.

Coinage

The copper coins issued by the Sivaganga rulers are characterised by the presence of Sivalinga on the obverse. One coin with Tamil legend *Sasivaranan* was reported by A. Seetharaman [1] and this is the only known inscribed coin of these family of rulers. The coin is assigned to Sasivarnadeva (1730-1750), the ruler of Sivaganga who married the sister of Kilavan Sethupati.

Some of the coin types (such as 12.10, 12.11) are from Thanjavur. These may hence be the issues of Thanjavur Nayaks as they have subjects of both Saivism and Vaishnavism on them. It is well known that Sevappa Raya was a Saivite. His successor Achyutappa Nayak encouraged both Saivism and Vaishnavism. Hence these coins may have been issued by him and his successors. The only reason they are placed here is the presence of Sivalinga, which was the common theme on the coins of Sivaganga Rajas. See also Mitchiner for the find spots of these coin types.

Description of Coins

12.1 Copper, 2.6 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Sivalinga.
Rev. Tamil legend *Sa si / va ra / na n.*
12.2 Copper, 3.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Rama standing facing.
Rev. Sivalinga.
12.3 Copper, 3.0 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Rama standing facing.
Rev. Sivalinga.
12.4 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Rama and Sita standing facing.
Rev. Sivalinga.

12.5 Copper, 2.7 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Rama and Sita.
Rev. Sivalinga.

12.6 Copper, 3.1 gm, 17x12 mm.

Obv. Rama and Sita.
Rev. Sivalinga and couchant bull.

12.7 Copper, 3.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Rama and Sita.
Rev. Sivalinga.

12.8 Copper, 3.3 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Rama *pattabhisheka.*
Rev. Sivalinga with garland.

12.9 Copper, 3.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Standing Vishnu.
Rev. Sivalinga.

12.10 Copper, 3.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Deity (Saraswati ?) on peacock to right.
Rev. Sivalinga.

12.11 Copper, 3.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Deity (Saraswati ?) on peacock to right.
Rev. Sivalinga.

12.12 Copper, 2.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Deity (Saraswati ?) on peacock right; umbrella in the left field.
Rev. Sivalinga; an umbrella in the right field.

12.13 Copper, 3.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Ganesa seated.
Rev. Sivalinga.

12.14 Copper, 3.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Ganesa on Mushika.
Rev. Sivalinga with garland.

12.15 Copper, 3.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Sivalinga.
Rev. Sivalinga.

12.16 Copper, 3.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Lion to right.
Rev. Sivalinga with garland.

References:

1. A. Seetharaman, *Tamilagath Tholial Sanrugal* (Tamil), 1994.
2. Michael Mitchiner, *The Coinage and History of Southern India*, Part Two, 1998.

13

MISCELLANEOUS COINS

Koneririyan Coins

Koneririyan was a feudatory under the Vijayanagar during the later half of 15th century and ruled from Kanchipuram in the north to Tiruchirappalli to the south. He seemed to have wielded considerable power around 1487 and ruled for nearly 25 years. In 1496 he was defeated and removed from power by Narasa Nayaka, the Vijayanagar emperor. We have the famous *Koneririyapuram* in Thanjavur district named after him.

The attribution of the coins bearing the Tamil legend Koneririyan to this king was made by R. Nagaswamy [1]. These coins have earlier been attributed to the Pandyas [2]. Mitchiner attributes these coins to the Kone chiefs of Gingee, who were the feudatories to the Perunjingas and then to the Pandyas [3]. Paleographically, the legend appears to be of a later period and hence the attribution by R. Nagaswamy appears to be correct.

The coins are characterized by the presence of a bull on the obverse and the Tamil legend *Koneririyan* on the reverse. Some die variations as well as size variations have been noticed.

13.1 Copper, 3.2 gm, 15 mm, Desikachari, Mitchiner.

Obv. In a circle of dots and linear circle, a bull standing left; dagger in front.
Rev. In a circle of dots and linear circle, three-line Tamil legend with rules between the lines *Ko / ne ri / ra ya n.*

13.2 Copper, 3.3 gm, 15 mm, Desikachari, Mitchiner.

Obv. In a circle of dots and linear circle, a bull standing left; a battle-axe above.
Rev. In a circle of dots and linear circle, on either side of a dagger, three-line Tamil legend *Ko / ne ri / ra ya n.*

13.3 Copper, 1.4 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. In a circle of dots and linear circle, a bull standing left; a battle-axe above.
Rev. In a circle of dots and linear circle, on either side of a dagger, three-line Tamil legend *Ko / ne ri / ra ya n.*

The battle-axe in the above two coins is mistakenly identified as state umbrella by the previous authors.

Coins of Ramanan

Ramanan ruled in AD 1511 in Dharmapuri area. Coins with legend *Ramanan* were first attributed to him by Natana Kasinathan [4]. Mitchiner reads the legend as *Ramana(d)* standing for Ramanathapuram and assigns the coins to Sethupatis. The assignment of Natana Kasinathan appears to be correct.

13.4 Copper, 2.8 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Standing figure with folded hands (king ?).
Rev. Tamil legend *Ra ma / na* (*n*).
13.5 Copper, 2.3 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Narasimha seated.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ra ma / na* (*n*).
13.6 Copper, 2.3 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Narasimha standing facing.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ra ma / na* (*n*).

Coins of Tiruvannamalai

The coins listed here were first attributed to Tiruvannamalai by Sewell. The twin hills depicted on the coins illustrate the location of the town among the hills. According to Mitchiner, the provincial coinage was introduced by Krishnadevaraya and continued until the period of Venkata II. In other words these coins were in circulation during 1520-1610. These coins are generally found at Tirucoilur and Karur.

13.7 Copper, 6.3 gm, 18 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Couchant bull seated right.
Rev. Kannada legend *A ru / na dri.*

13.8 Copper, 6.4 gm, 16 mm, Sewell, Mitchiner.

Obv. Twin peaked hill.
Rev. Kannada legend *A ru / na dri.*

13.9 Copper, 5.3 gm, 17 mm, Sewell, Mitchiner.

Obv. Garuda in *virasana* right.
Rev. Twin peaked hill.

13.10 Copper, 3.3 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Twin peaked hill.
Rev. Corrupt Nagari legend.

The Nagari legend has been read as *Sri Venka / tapa prata / pa raya* by Mitchiner. The reading appears to be incorrect.

13.11 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Twin peaked hill.
Rev. Corrupt Nagari legend.

The above two coins may also be the issues of Gingee Nayaks.

Coin of Aagavaraman

Tenkasi was the capital of Pandyas during 14th-17th century AD. A coin with Tamil legend *Aagavaraman* is assigned to these rulers by A. Seetharaman. Aagavaraman and Abhirama Parakrama Pandya were brothers who ruled during 1507-1534. The coin under consideration may have been issued by Aagavaraman as a feudatory of Vijayanagar empire.

13.12 Copper, 7.0 gm, 17 mm, A. Seetharaman (1994).

Obv. Gandabherunda.
Rev. On either side of a trident, Tamil legend *Aa ga va ra ma n.*

Standing King - Bull Type Coins

The coins of the types listed below were attributed to the Cholas by Desikachari, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya and to the Madurai Nayaks by R. Nagaswamy. Michael Mitchiner attributes

these coins to the Perunjinga Pallavas of Sendamangalam who ruled during 1221-1278 in Salem district. The author agrees with R. Nagaswamy's attribution. These coins may have been issued during the period 1564-1600.

13.13 Copper, 3.7 gm, 18 mm, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; conch in front; crescent above.

13.14 Copper, 3.1 gm, 17 mm, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; dagger in front; crescent above.

13.15 Copper, 3.0 gm, 15 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing left; crescent above.

13.16 Copper, 3.2 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; crescent and sun above.

13.17 Copper, 3.3 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; uncertain object above.

13.18 Copper, 3.3 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; uncertain object above.

The two coins listed above have been noticed for the first time. These can also be attributed to the Madurai Nayaks.

13.19 Copper, 3.6 gm, 14 mm, Biddulph, Chattopadhyaya,

Mitchiner.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; Nagari *Vi* in front; crescent above.
Attributed to the Cholas (Vikrama Chola ?) by Biddulph and Chattopadhyaya and to Maravarman Vira Pandya by Mitchiner. The author however feels that these coins are likely to be the issues of Virappa Nayak (1572-1595) of Madurai. Pandyas are known to have issued coins only with Tamil legend.
13.20 Copper, 2.3 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; discus and Kannada *Vi* in front.
13.21 Copper, 2.2 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; dagger and Kannada *Vi* in front.

The two coins listed above are being reported for the first time. These can also be attributed to Madurai Virappa Nayak.

13.22 Copper, 2.8 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; conch in front; Kannada *Ha* above.
Attributed to Harihara I by Mitchiner. R. Nagaswamy reads the letter as *Cho* and assigns it to Chokkanatha Nayak of Madurai.

13.23 Copper, 3.5 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Standing figure of king.
Rev. Bull standing right; Kannada *La* in front; crescent above.
Letter read as *Na* and attributed to Naganna Danayaka by Mitchiner. The coin may be the issue of Lakshmana Danayaka who was the viceroy of Madurai during the days of Devaraya II.

Coins of Adil Shahis

Muhammad Adil Shah (1627-1657), the Bijapur Sultan, occupied Vellore in 1647 and Gingee in 1655. His coins have been observed in Arcot districts.

13.24 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Corrupt Persian legend.
Rev. Leaf symbol.
13.25 Copper, 2.8 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner, A. Seetharaman.

Obv. Seated Narasimha.
Rev. Leaf symbol.
13.26 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm, A. Seetharaman.

Obv. Lakshmi and Narayana seated.
Rev. Leaf symbol.
13.27 Copper, 3.3 gm, 13 mm, A. Seetharaman.

Obv. Standing Hanuman.
Rev. Leaf symbol; Persian legend around.

Coins of Mughal Emperors

Gingee was conquered in 1698 by the Mughal emperor

Aurangzeb. Vellore was taken over from the Marathas in 1708. Copper coins of Machilipatan mint issued during the days of Aurangzeb to Shah Alam II have been observed in the Arcot region. The Nawabs of Arcot started issuing coins in their names after they became independent.

Aurangzeb (1068-1118)

13.28 Copper, 6.1 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 1111.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 43.

13.29 Copper, 6.4 gm, 16 mm, Jawahar Babu.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 1115.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 47.

13.30 Copper, 6.6 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 1116.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 48.

13.31 Copper, 13.3 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 1116.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 48.

13.32 Copper, 6.2 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 1117.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 49.

Farruksiyar (1124-1131)

13.33 Copper, 5.2 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 112x.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 11.

Muhammad Shah (1131-1161)

13.34 Copper, 6.4 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 1132.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 1.

13.35 Copper, 13.6 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 1135.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 5.

13.36 Copper, 6.6 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 1136.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 6.

13.37 Copper, 13.8 gm, 18 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Mubarak jalus sanat* 1139.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Machilipatan sanat* 9.

Jawahar Babu has listed issues of Aurangzeb, Shah Alam I, Farruksiyar, Muhammad Shah, Alamgir II and Shah Alam II.

Coin of Venkat Rao

Venkat Rao was appointed as governor of Arni by Thanjavur Maratha ruler Thulsaji (1763-1787). Venkat Rao seems to have declared independence and issued coins in his own name.

13.38 Copper, 3.3 gm, 13 mm, A. Seetharaman.

Obv. Hanuman to right.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri Ve ka / ta ra v.*

Coins of Uncertain Attribution

The coins listed below were observed at Madurai. These may be the initial coinage of Madurai Nayaks. The attribution is tentative.

13.39 Copper, 3.1 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Lion right.
Rev. Trident like symbol flanked by sun and crescent.

13.40 Copper, 3.4 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Lion right.
Rev. Cross like symbol; on four sides, *Vaishnavite* symbol, conch, sun and crescent.

13.41 Copper, 3.2 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Lion right.
Rev. Six pointed star; *Vaishnavite* symbol, conch, sun and crescent.

The coins listed below were observed at Thanjavur. According to Mitchiner, these may be the issues struck for use in Jain pilgrimage place.

13.42 Copper, 2.8 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Figure seated in *padmasana* (Tirtankara ?).
Rev. Poornakumbha.

13.43 Copper, 3.0 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Figure seated as in previous coin.
Rev. Lotus.

13.44 Copper, 3.0 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Figure seated as in 13.42.
Rev. Gandabherunda ?

13.45 Copper, 0.9 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Same as 13.42.
Rev. Dagger.

The coin listed below was observed at Madurai. It has on the obverse Virabhadra moving towards right, and on the reverse the legend in Tamil Grantha *Virabhadra*.

13.46 Copper, 4.0 gm, 17 mm.

Obv. Virabhadra moving right.
Rev. Tamil Grantha legend *Vi ra bha dra*.

The coins listed below is tentatively attributed to the Adil Shahis.

13.47 Copper, 2.6 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Fish.
Rev. Corrupt Persian legend.

13.48 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Gandabherunda.
Rev. Corrupt Persian legend.

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COINS OF THE NAWABS OF ARCOT

The Nawabs who were entrusted with the governorship of North Arcot and South Arcot districts by Aurangzeb, declared independence somewhere during 1720s. This was during the period of Sadat-ullah Khan I (1710 – 1732) who was appointed by Bahadur Shah, the Mughal emperor. The period that followed saw the entire Deccan and Carnatic in a highly fluid state. The Marathas had plundered the Carnatic, killed its governor, Nawab Dost Ali (1732 – 1740) who had succeeded Sadat-ullah Khan, and took his son-in-law, Chanda Sahib as prisoner. Safdar Ali (1740 – 1742), the son of Dost Ali had saved his life and kingdom by promising to pay the Marathas, but was soon murdered by a cousin, and his young son Sadat-ullah Khan II (1742 – 1744) was proclaimed the Nawab. The English and French settlements were in the process of establishing their foothold in the region during this period. The Nizam supported by English appointed Anwar-ud-din (1744 – 1749), the Nawab of Arcot after Sadat-ullah Khan II.

The appointment of Anwar-ud-din gave rise to discontent among the relations of Nawab Dost Ali. This was brought to head by Chanda Sahib, who was released by the Marathas in 1741 after seven years of captivity. Dupleix concluded a secret treaty with Chanda Sahib and killed Anwar-ud-din at the battle of Ambur. Muhammad Ali the son of Anwar-ud-din fled to Trichy.

The English supported Muhammad Ali and with the help of Robert Clive, Arcot was captured and Chanda Sahib was beheaded by a Thanjavur general. Muhammad Ali (1749 – 1795) also known as Walajah, remained in control of the Arcot. His brother was Mafus Khan. Muhammad Ali was succeeded by his son Umdatu al-Umara (1795 - 1801). The territory later passed on to the East India Company.

Coinage

The initial coinage of the Nawabs were in the name of

the Mughal emperors, but after 1720 or so they started issuing coins in their name. The coins are in gold, silver and copper; the coins in copper accounting for bulk of their coinage. The Nawabs who are known to have issued the coins in their name are Sadat-ul-lah Khan, Anwar-ud-din, Chanda Sahib, Yusuf Khan (?), Muhammad Ali/Walajah, Mafus Khan and Umdatu al-Umara. The coins of governors have also been observed. The coins were minted at Porto-Novo (Parangipettai), Nathar Nagar (Trichy), Nagapattinam, Dharapuram, Kaduba, Salem, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Madras-Chinthathripet, Madras-Thiruvamur, Madras-St. George Fort [1].

The early issues were of the Mughal emperors from Arcot and Machilipatan mint. The coins from Machilipatan mint are discussed elsewhere.

Coin with legend *Amirudhinaram* has been assigned to Sadat-ul-lah khan. The attribution is only tentative. The corpus also has a coin of Anwar-ud-din with Tamil legend *Anuwarudhu*. Coins of Chanda Sahib have the Tamil legend *Nawa Chanda Sayabu*.

Several coins with various obverse devices and the Tamil legend *Asu* (or *Asa) Nababu* have been listed. One of the type is counter marked on Dalavai Sethupati's coin. The Sethupatis were major independent power in the south after the conquest of Madurai by Chanda Sahib. Only in 1764, they acknowledged the suzerainty of Muhammad Ali and Mafus Khan. Given this background, it is reasonable to assume that these coins are the issues of either Muhammad Ali or Mafus Khan. One of the type has the Persian *Ain* which is generally found on Muhammad Ali's coins. The only other contender is Yusuf Khan (alias Khan Sahib) who held Madurai during 1757-1763. It is not clear whether Sethupati rulers were feudatories of Yusuf Khan.

The attribution of the coins to Muhammad Ali is not difficult. He held the title *Walajah* and most of the coins bear this title. The coins with Tamil legend *Nawab* or Tamil letter *Na* (standing for Nawab) are also assigned to him. Some coins bear the date of issue.

The governors seem to have played an important role in the administration at Madurai. Few coins bearing the name of the governors have been listed. Amongst these are the coins bearing Tamil legends *Subbara* (for Subbarayar), *Venka* (for

Venkatarayar), *Narayana* (for Narayanarayar). Coin with legend *Sri Rama* can be attributed to Ramaswamy Ayyan. The coins with legend *Kovi* or *Kovindayyar* may also fall into this category although it is not clear whether any governor with the name Govindayyar ruled Madurai. Incidentally, the coin with legend Govindayyar is assigned to Govinda Dikshitar by A. Seetharaman. This attribution is doubtful.

Coins with Tamil/Telugu letter *Sri* are also listed here. These may be latter issues of the *Sri Vira* types from Madurai, thus making them attributable to the Nawab's rule. A coin with legend *Sri Vira* on the obverse and Tamil *Na* on the reverse has been recorded. This may be the transition coin from Madurai Nayaks to Nawabs from Madurai region.

Other coins praising the lord such as *Kumaran Thunai*, *Vadive(l)*, *Ramajayam*, *Sitaram* are also listed here as these belong to the period of Nawabs rule. The coins listed show similarity in type and fabric with the coins of Nawabs of Arcot. For example the devices such as plant and leaves, flag as well as legend such as *Kumaran Thunai* have been observed on the coins of Nawabs. Similarly the fish / *Sri* shown is similar to the fish / *Na* type. These were possibly issued by those who acknowledged the suzerainty of the Nawab. The coin with legend *Kumaran Thunai* may have been the issue of Sethupatis of Ramnad after they acknowledged the suzerainty of the Nawabs. This is confirmed by the counter mark on one of the type with Nawabs name. Similarly coins with legend of the town Tineveli are also assigned to this period although their attribution to the Nayaks of Madurai or Sethupatis cannot be ruled out.

Description of Coins

In the name of Mughal rulers

14.1 Copper, 12 gm, 20 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Alam Shah badshah (ghazi).*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arkat mubarak jalus.*
14.2 Copper, 12 gm, 20 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Alam Shah badshah (ghazi).*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arkat mubarak jalus.*
14.3 Copper, 12 gm, 20 mm.

Obv. Similar to 14.1.
Rev. Similar to 14.1.
14.4 Copper, 12 gm, 20 mm.

Obv. Similar to 14.1.
Rev. Similar to 14.1.
14.5 Copper, 1.2 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Shah Alam.*
Rev. Persian legend *sanat 1183.*
14.6 Copper, 2.6 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Shah Alam.*
Rev. Persian legend *sanat 1188.*
14.7 Copper, 2.5 gm, 13 mm, Jawahar Babu.

Obv. Persian legend *Shah Alam.*
Rev. Persian legend *sanat 1189.*
14.8 Copper, 1.4 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Shah Alam.*
Rev. Persian legend *sanat 1191.*
14.9 Copper, 1.3 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Shah Alam.*
Rev. Persian legend *sanat 119X.*

See also Biddulph, Krause, Mitchiner for similar coins. Jawahar Babu has recently published new types. These are dated AH 1116 (6.73 gm), AH 113x (6.75 gm), AH 1165 (6.56 gm), AH 1132 (6.92 gm), AH 1190 (6.30 gm), AH 1185 (2.10 gm), AH 1185 (1.3 gm).

Sadat-ullah Khan

14.10 Copper, 0.8 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Flower ?
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa (m) / ru ya / na.*

14.11 Copper, V. Jeyaraj.
Obv. Horse to left with a man standing behind it.
Rev. Tamil legend *Amirudhinaram.*

Anwar-ud-din

14.12 Copper, 2.1 gm, 10 mm, V. Jeyaraj.

Obv. Flag with sun and moon.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa nu / wa ru / (du).*

Chanda Sahib

14.13 Copper, 2.3 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Dagger.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na wa / Cha nda / sa ya / bu.*

14.14 Copper, 2.3 gm, 14 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Peacock to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na wa / Cha nda / sa / bu.*

14.15 Copper, 2.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Peacock to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Cha nda / sa ya / bu.*

14.16 Copper, 3.4 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Peacock right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na wa / Cha nda / sa (bu).*
14.17 Copper, 2.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Rihala.*
Rev. Tamil legend *Na wa / sa / ya bu.*
14.18 Copper, 2.2 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Dagger.
Rev. Persian legend *Zarbuddin khan Rahim.*
14.19 Copper, 2.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Sivalinga.
Rev. Persian legend.

With legend Asu(or Asa) Nababu

The period during 1736 to 1800 at Madurai seems to project a confusing picture. Chanda Sahib had imprisoned the last Madurai Nayak Minakshi after capturing Madurai. What followed after this was total confusion with several governors ruling in succession. Appaji Rayar (until 1743), Mafus Khan and Muhammad Ali (until 1751), Alam Khan, Vijaya Kumara Muttu Tirumalai Nayak, Mayana, Muhammad Mainach ruled till Madurai was captured by Yusuf Khan alias Khan Sahib. Yusuf Khan seems to have ruled till Muhammad Ali and Mafus Khan took over in 1764. The governors of Madurai from 1764 - 1801 were – Abdul Khan (1764 - 77), Kadar Sahib (1778), Kayala Behu Khan (1779), Mallari Rayar (1779 - 81), Venkata Rayar (1781 - 84), Segu Muhammad (1785), Ramaswamy Ayyan (1787), Subbarayar (1788 - 89), Ramaswamy Ayyan (1789 - 90), East India Company collector Alexander Macleud (1790 - 91), Khader Sahib (1792), Ramaswamy Ayyan (1793 - 94), Venkatarayar (1794 - 95), Ramaswamy Ayyan (1797 - 98), Ravo Pandit (1799), Narayanarayar (1800), Rangarayar (1801), East India Company collector Thomas Bower Hurdis (1801) [2].

14.20 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Geometric pattern.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba (bu).*

14.21 Copper, 1.9 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Cluster of seven pellets.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba / bu.*
14.22 Copper, 1.4 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Tree.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba (bu).*
14.23 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Plant with leaves.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na (ba bu).*
14.24 Copper, 1.5 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Six arched hill.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba (bu).*

14.25 Copper, 1.8 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Pattern resembling crown.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa sa / na ba (bu).*

14.26 Copper, 1.6 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Deity (?) seated facing.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba (bu).*
The coin is restruck.

14.27 Copper, 1.7 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Persian *Ain.*
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba (bu).*

14.28 Copper, 1.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. *Poornakumbha* ?
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa (su) / na (ba bu).*

14.29 Copper, 1.6 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Floral pattern ?
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa sa / na ba (bu).*

14.30 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Fleur de lis ?
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba (bu).*

14.31 Copper, 1.8 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Standing deity (Minakshi).
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa sa / na ba (bu).*
14.32 Copper, 1.7 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Seated figure.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba (bu).*
14.33 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Dagger.
Rev. Tamil legend *As su / na ba (bu).*
14.34 Copper, 1.2 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Sun and moon.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba (bu).*

14.35 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. In the middle pellets around which is the Tamil legend (*Kumaran*) *thu nai.*
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa sa / na ba / bu.*

14.36 Copper, 1.7 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. In the middle group of pellets around which is the Tamil legend *Ku ma ra n thu nai.*
Rev. Tamil legend *Ra - / ja /* and at the 9° clock position the Tamil legend *Aa su / na ba bu.*
Counter marked on Dalavai Sethupati's coin.

14.37 Copper, 1.3 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Uncertain.
Rev. Tamil legend *Aa su* repeated four times on four sides.
The coin is restruck.

Muhammad Ali

14.38 Copper, 2.2 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Flower.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma mu / da li.*

14.39 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Uncertain (Sivalinga; below seated bull ?).
Rev. Tamil legend *Na / wa.*

14.40 Copper, 1.8 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Standing deity (Minakshi).
Rev. Tamil legend *Na w / a bu.*

14.41 Copper, 2.0 gm, 12 mm, K. Ganesh.

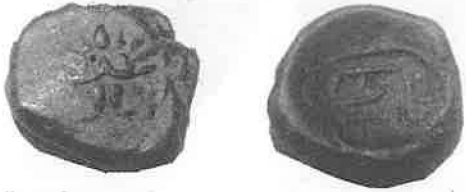
Obv. *Trimurti.*
Rev. Tamil legend *Na w / a bu.*
14.42 Copper, 2.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Discus.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na w / a bu.*
14.43 Copper, 1.3 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Elephant to right.
Rev. Tamil legend Na w / a (bu).
14.44 Copper, 1.1 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Couchant bull to left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na b / a bu.*
14.45 Copper, 2.1 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Four squares.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na / wa / bu.*
14.46 Copper, 1.8 gm, 13 mm.



Obv. Standing Garuda.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na b / a bu.*
14.47 Copper, 2.4 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Sun and moon.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na b / a bu.*
14.48 Copper, 2.6 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Sun and moon.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na ba / bu.*
Restruck on Narasimha/Srivira coin.
14.49 Copper, 1.2 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.
Obv. Star.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na b / a bu.*
14.50 Copper, 1.2 gm, 8 mm, Mitchiner.
Obv. Lion right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na b / a bu.*
14.51 Copper, 2.1 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner.
Obv. Horse left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na b / a bu.*
14.52 Copper, 1.5 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.
Obv. Dagger.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na b / a bu.*
14.53 Copper, 1.3 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.
Obv. Ganesa seated.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na b / a bu.*
14.54 Copper, 7.1 gm, 17 mm, Krause, Mitchiner.

Obv. Fish.
Rev. Tamil letter *Na.*
14.55 Copper, 2.3 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Sivalinga; below couchant bull.
Rev. Tamil letter *Na.*

14.56 Copper, 2.3 gm, 11 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Bull to left.
Rev. Tamil letter *Na.*

14.57 Copper, 0.7 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Telugu legend *Sri Vira.*
Rev. Tamil letter *Na.*
The take over of Madurai is complete !

14.58 Copper, 3.1 gm, 11 mm, K. Ganesh.

Obv. Ganesa seated facing.
Rev. Dagger and Tamil *Na.*

14.59 Copper, 0.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Tamil legend *Wa / la / ja.*
Rev. Persian legend *Walajah.*
14.60 Copper, 3.4 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Horse with rider (?) to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Wa / la / ja.*
14.61 Copper, 1.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Tamil legend *Wa / la / (ja).*
Rev. Persian legend *Walajah 1185.*
14.62 Copper, 3.4 gm, 13 mm, Mitchiner, R. Jawahar Babu.

Obv. Hanuman to right; Persian letters *Wa* and *la* on either side.
Rev. Chequered pattern.
14.63 Copper, 1.0 gm, 11 mm, S. Raman.

Obv. Bust of the king.
Rev. Persian legend *Wala.*
14.64 Copper, 1.0 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Tamil legend *Sri ra / (ma).*
Rev. Persian legend *Walajah.*
14.65 Copper, 1.7 gm, 11 mm, Biddulph, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. Persian legend *Nawab.*
14.66 Copper, 1.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. Persian legend *Nawab 1206.*

14.67 Copper, 3.2 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Crescent with pellets.
Rev. Persian legend *Walajah.*

14.68 Copper, 0.9 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. Persian *sanat 118x.*

14.69 Copper, 1.4 gm, 10 mm, Krause.

Obv. Persian legend *Wala.*
Rev. Persian legend *jah.*

14.70 Copper, 1.2 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Twin hill; below crescent.
Rev. Persian legend *Walajah.*
14.71 Copper, 1.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah (?).*
Rev. Persian legend *sanat 1181.*
14.72 Copper, 1.5 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. Persian *sanat 119x.*
Other known dates 1163, 1181, 1186, 1189, 1195, 1197, 1203, 1206, 1213, 1214 (see Biddulph, Krause, Mitchiner).
14.73 Copper, 1.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. (1)312. Error date ?
14.74 Copper, 0.9 gm, 10 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. (1)173 ?
14.75 Copper, 0.9 gm, 8 mm.

Obv. Flower ?
Rev. Persian *sanat 1197.*
14.76 Copper, 0.9 gm, 8 mm.

Obv. Flower ?
Rev. Persian *sanat 1201.*
14.77 Copper, 0.9 gm, 8 mm.

Obv. Snakes intertwined.
Rev. (1)197.

14.78 Copper, 1.6 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Hanuman right.
Rev. Persian legend *Walajah sanat 1202.*
14.79 Copper, 2.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Lion right.
Rev. Persian legend *Walajah* ?
14.80 Copper, 1.3 gm, 9 mm.

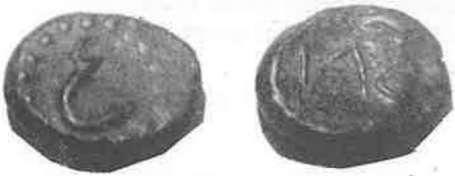
Obv. Crude Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. Persian *sanat 119x.*
14.81 Copper, 1.7 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Counter marked on old *Wala / jah* issue.

14.82 Gold, 3.4 gm, 13 mm, Krause, Mitchiner.

Obv. Vishnu with his consorts (Three swamis).
Rev. In a granulated field, Persian letter *Ain.*
14.83 Copper, 1.3 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Persian letter *Ain.*
Rev. Persian *sanat 1171.*
14.84 Copper, 1.0 gm, 9 mm.



Obv. Persian *Ain.*
Rev. Persian *sanat 1187.*
14.85 Copper, 13 gm, 23 mm, Krause, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah sanat 1208.*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arkat sanat 35 jalus.*
Other known dates 1200, 1206.
14.86 Copper, 6 gm, 18 mm, Krause.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah sanat 1208.*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arkat sanat 35 jalus.*
14.87 Copper, 6 gm, 18 mm, Krause.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah sanat 1209.*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arkat sanat jalus.*
Other known dates 1207.
14.88 Copper, 3 gm, 15 mm, Krause, Mitchiner.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah sanat 1207.*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arkat sanat 36 jalus.*
Other known dates 1208.

14.89 Copper, 2.8 gm, 13 mm, Krause.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. Persian legend *sanat 1183.*
Other known dates 1201, 1202.

14.90 Copper, 6 gm, 15 mm, Krause.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah 1207.*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arcot sane jalus.*
Other known dates 1200 – 1206.

14.91 Copper, 6 gm, 15 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arkat.*
Other known dates 1206, 1208 (see Krause).

14.92 Copper, 6 gm, 18 mm, Krause.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah.*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Nathar nagar sanat 1207.*
Other denominations - half paisa (1207), quarter Paisa (ND) (see Krause).
14.93 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah sanat 1185.*
Rev. Persian legend restored as *Zarb* (*Fazarn or Nazarn or Fazar patan or Nazar patan*).
14.94 Copper, 3.0 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Similar to the previous coin.
Rev. Similar to the previous coin.

The reverse legend has not been read satisfactorily. However the above two coins suggests a new mint name.

14.95 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Five pointed star.
Rev. Persian legend *Shahani.*

Mafus Khan

14.96 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Within a square five pellets.
Rev. Tamil legend *(Ma) bu su.*

14.97 Copper, 2.4 gm, 15 mm, Mitchiner.

Obv. Flower ?
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / bu su.*

14.98 Copper, 2.0 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Plant with leaves.
Rev. Tamil legend *(Ma) / bu su / ka (n).*

14.99 Copper, 2.1 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Fish.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / bu su.*

14.100 Copper, 2.2 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Flower ?
Rev. Tamil legend *(Ma) bu su.*

14.101 Copper, 2.2 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Flower ?
Rev. Tamil legend *Ma / bu su.*

Umadatu al-Umara

14.102 Copper, 13.5 gm, 23 mm, Krause.

Obv. Persian legend *Walajah sanat 1213.*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arkat sanat 4 jalus.*
Other known coins with same date : 1/4 Paisa, 1/2 Paisa.
14.103 Copper, 6.0 gm, 16 mm.
Obv. Persian legend *Walajah sanat 1214.*
Rev. Persian legend *Zarb Arkat sanat jalus.*

Coins of Governors in Madurai

There are two ways of looking at the coins listed in this section. The first approach is to consider the names as being in praise of lord (as we have considered coins listed in the next section). The second approach, the one that is taken, is to consider these to be the issues of the governors in Madurai. In either case, the coins can definitely be attributed to the period of Nawabs.

The following two coins are tentatively attributed to Venkatrayar.
14.104 Copper, 2.3 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Sivalinga.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ve ng ka.*
14.105 Copper, 2.3 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Discus.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ve ng ka.*
The following coins are tentatively assigned to Ramaswamy Ayyan.
14.106 Copper, 1.8 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Flag on pole flanked by sun and moon.
Rev. Kannada / Telugu legend *Sri* / *Ra ma* followed by a conch.
14.107 Copper, 2.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Vaishnavite mark flanked by conch and discus.
Rev. Kannada / Telugu legend *Sri* / *Ra ma.*

14.108 Copper, 1.8 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Ankusa; sun and moon.
Rev. Kannada / Telugu legend *Sri* / *Ra ma.*

14.109 Copper, 6.6 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Sun and moon separated by a vertical line.
Rev. Kannada / Telugu legend *Sri* / *Ra ma.*

14.110 Copper, 2.0 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Hanuman moving to right.
Rev. Crescent and Nagari legend *Sri* / *Ra ma.*

The following coins are tentatively assigned to Narayanarayar.

14.111 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bull to left; above sun and moon.
Rev. Around dagger Tamil legend left *Na / ya*; right *ra / na*.
14.112 Copper, 2.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Bull to left.
Rev. Tamil legend left *Na ra / Na*.
14.113 Copper, 3.2 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Dagger flanked by lamps on either side; sun on left and moon on right.
Rev. Nagari legend *Sri / Na ra / ya na*.
14.114 Copper, 2.7 gm, 12 mm, Mitchiner.

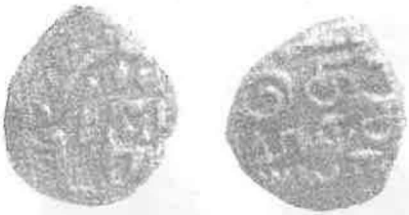
Obv. Hanuman moving to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Na ra / (ya) na*.
The following coin is attributed to Subbarayar.

14.115 Copper, 2.3 gm, 12 mm, S. Raman.

Obv. Sivalinga with serpent hood.
Rev. Tamil legend *Su ba / ra.*

In the name of Govinda(yyar) ?

14.116 Copper, 2.5 gm, 12 mm, A. Seetharaman (1994).



Obv. Standing figure of king ? (Appears to be Minakshi).
Rev. Tamil legend *Ko / vi n da / y ya r.*
14.117 Copper, 1.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Lion to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ko vi.*
14.118 Copper, 2.7 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Dancing Krishna.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ko vi.*
14.119 Copper, 2.1 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Dancing Krishna.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ko / vi nd.*
14.120 Copper, 2.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Standing Garuda facing.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ko / vi.*
14.121 Copper, 2.6 gm, 14 mm.

Obv. Standing deity.

Rev. Tamil legend *Ko / vi nd.*

Anonymous Coins.

14.122 Copper, 1.6 gm, 14 mm, K. Ganesh.

Obv. Plant with leaves.
Rev. Tamil legend *Va di / ve.*
14.123 Copper, 2.5 gm, 14 mm, K. Ganesh.

Obv. A flag; below crescent.
Rev. Tamil legend *Va di / ve.*
14.124 Copper, 2.8 gm, 13 mm, A. Seetharaman.

Obv. Peacock to right.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ku ma ra / n thu* (*nai*).
14.125 Copper, 2.3 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. Tree.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ku ma ra / n thu / nai.*
14.126 Copper, 2.0 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Dagger.
Rev. Sword; Tamil legend *Ku ma ra (n) / thu nai* distributed on top and bottom.
14.127 Copper, 1.2 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Tamil *Si.*
Rev. Tamil *Va.*
14.128 Copper, 1.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Siva and Parvati on bull left.
Rev. Tamil (*Si*)*va*.
14.129 Copper, 2.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Ganesa seated.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ga na / pa ti*.
14.130 Copper, 2.7 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Hanuman moving to right.
Rev. Nagari legend *Si ta / ra m*.
14.131 Copper, 3.4 gm, 16 mm.

Obv. Bull; above Sivalinga.
Rev. Tamil *Sri*.
14.132 Copper, 3.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Lakshmi seated.
Rev. Tamil Grantha *Sri.*
14.133 Copper, 2.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. God and Goddess seated.
Rev. Tamil Grantha *Sri.*
14.134 Copper, 3.1 gm, 13 mm.

Obv. God and Goddess.
Rev. Tamil Grantha *Sri.*
14.135 Copper, 2.7 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Dancing Krishna.
Rev. Tamil Grantha *Sri.*

14.136 Copper, 7.0 gm, 15 mm, Mitchiner (reverse read as *Na*).

Obv. Fish.
Rev. Tamil Grantha *Sri* ?
14.137 Copper, 1.2 gm, 9 mm.

Obv. Standing figure.
Rev. Kannada / Telugu *Sri* ?
14.138 Copper, 2.4 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. God and Goddess.
Rev. Tamil Grantha *Sri* ?
14.139 Copper, 3.3 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Siva and Parvati on bull left.
Rev. Kannada / Telugu *Sri*; sun and moon.
14.140 Copper, 1.8 gm, 11 mm.

Obv. Uncertain.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ra ma / ja ya (m).*

With legend *Tinaveli*

14.141 Copper, 1.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Hollow cross with a circle in the centre.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ti na ve li.*
14.142 Copper, 1.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Lion to left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ti na ve li.*
14.143 Copper, 1.6 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Lion to left.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ti na ve li.*
14.144 Copper, 1.9 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Plant with leaves.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ti na / ve / li.*
14.145 Copper, 1.5 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Plant with leaves.
Rev. Tamil legend *Ti na / ve / li.*
14.146 Copper, 1.4 gm, 12 mm.

Obv. Tamil legend *Madurai.*
Rev. Tamil legend *Ti na / ve / li.*

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